Lifestyle / F2

Garden of spontaneity: Freestyle landscaping ideas defy convention

World / A11

US health panel OKs Vioxx sale despite risks

News / A7

DOT-Smart launches 'I love the Philippines Biyahe na'

News / A2

Abus attack, kill 3 soldiers in Indanan, Sulu

JOB Market

Do you stand above the rest? Here find the best

Going techie, SC justices hurdle 'kindergarten'

-JUSTICE IS BLIND... PERO HI-TECH NAMAN!

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE BEST legal minds in the country took a crash course on basic computer literacy.

After two hours of intensive tinkering, Associate

GOING/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY
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For 13th year Joker most tight-fisted in Congress

By Michael Lim Ubac

MAVERICK administration Sen. Joker P. Arroyo has maintained his reputation for being the most "*kuripot*" (tightfisted) solon for the 13th straight year.

Arroyo spent only P12.6 million from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2003, according to an itemized

FOR 13TH YEAR/ A6

'Terror threat still high'

REMY PAMPOLINA/PCPO MALACAÑANG

THE PRESIDENT'S DAY: Looking like she's licked the blues, Ms Arroyo visits Pangasinan on Saturday to prumote her 10-point agenda, which includes the creation of 10 million jobs and of opportunities for livelihood. In Binalonan, the President stresses agriculture as an integral part of her agenda and inaugurates projects of the Bureau of Fishery and Aquatic Resources including "Hipon ni Gloria," a freshwater prawn that has a shorter larval rearing period and higher survival rate.

US asks RP to stay alert, warns of more attacks

THE US State Department urged Americans in the Philippines to remain on high alert, warning there might be future bombings targeting airports, passenger ships and seaports.

"Terrorist groups do not distinguish between official and civilian targets," it said in an advisory on Friday.

"The terrorist threat to Americans in the Philippines remains high, and the embassy continues to receive reports of ongoing activities by known terrorist groups," the department said.

The State Department issued the "public announcement" following the Valentine's Day bombings in the cities of Makati, General Santos and Davao, which killed eight people and wounded about 150.

The advisory said groups including the Southeast Asian network Jemaah Islamiyah and the Abu Sayyaf had demonstrated an ability to attack locations where Westerners congregate.

The Philippine military has said the Feb. 14 attacks were intended to divert its forces battling Moro insurgents in Jolo, where three more soldiers were killed in an ambush yesterday. *(See story on Page A2)*.

"These are all disinformation. We don't want to give credence without verification," national capital region police chief Director Avelino Razon Razon said when asked about the US advisory.

Razon said his office had not received any new intelligence report on future bomb threats.

Asked for comment on the US alert, Razon told the INQUIRER: "Why don't you ask the State Department about that information."

TERROR/ A6

Talking peace better, says wheelchair-bound colonel

By Robert Abaño
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—The ongoing conflict in some parts of Mindanao can best be resolved at the negotiating table, according to an ex-soldier whose life was radically changed on the battlefield.

"War is cruel, [although] that's how heroes are born sometimes. But if we could avoid these cruelties in war, then life would be better," retired Lt. Col. Esmeraldo Romano, 54, said at yesterday's Philippine Military Academy alumni homecoming. Romano is the first casualty of PMA Class of 1972.

Romano, wheelchair-bound for the past 32 years, led his 80 "mistah" (classmates) during the alumni parade at the Borromeo Field.

Later, surrounded by his proud classmates, he said that if he had his way, the continuing conflict would be resolved through peaceful means to prevent further bloodshed: "If we can do it by [talking peace], I think everyone will be happy."

Fresh out of school, he was hit by a bullet in the head and given up for dead by his mistah during a clash with Moro National Liberation Front rebels in Maluso, Basilan, in December of that year.

The retired officer has turned his experience on the battlefield and his efforts to recover into a crusade to help others

TALKING/ A6

UK banker lets go of stiff upper lip at housing project for poor

By Volt Contreras

GENERAL TINIO, Nueva Ecija—Filipino sweat and British tears marked the recent launch here of a low-cost housing project for families displaced by last year's killer storms.

Displaying a depth of emotion rarely seen in corporate VIPs, a top banking executive from the United Kingdom dissolved into sobs as he was delivering a speech before a gathering of peasants, civic volunteers and town officials at the Feb. 16 groundbreaking rites of a Gawad Kalinga community rehabilitation drive.

Warner Manning, chief executive officer of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp., has not been a stranger to fund-raising activities for street children and the environment since he was posted in the Philippines in November 2002.

The Gawad Kalinga-led project was just the latest in HSBC's charities to the poor. But it was apparently what moved him most.

At the ceremony held at the construction site, Manning bewildered his audience, including his own staff and his wife Julie, when he started pausing in mid-sentence early on in his prepared speech: "I think ... I remember working in Hong Kong for 20 years ... and a number of typhoons ... There's been so many typhoons in this country. It's very rewarding to be here ... to help ... you people..."

He was only on his fourth sentence when his listeners noticed what was going on: "He's crying."

This prompted Julie to rise from her seat and

UK BANKER/ A21

REM ZAMORA

TWINS TIMES TWO

Rolando Tulipat and wife Angelita carry their twins Aiza Grace and Aira Grace born March 30, 2003 and exactly a year later on March 28, 2004, Abigail and Arabel were born. They are among the 367 twins and 10 triplets participating in the Festival of Twins on Saturday with its theme "Fullness of life for everyone." *(See story on Page A23.)*

'Learning by doing' could revolutionize RP education

THE BERNIDOS of Bohol—Christopher is director of studies and Maria Victoria, principal—have made their high school, the Central Visayan Institute, a world science oasis where past speakers have included 2 Nobel Prize winners.

CORAZON BERNIDO

By Raul V. Fabella, Cristina B. Fabella and Vigile Marie Fabella

TOURISTS come to Bohol to be transported by its natural wonders.

Of late, a new type of visitors (educators from across the country) has made Jagna, Bohol their destination. Their unusual query is: "Where is CVI?" CVI stands for Central Visayan Institute, a high school run by the Bernidos (Maria Victoria is principal and Christopher is director of studies), at the heart of Jagna, a port town 63 kilometers east of Tagbilaran.

The visitors are anxious about something they have heard, the Dynamic Learning Program (DLP) of CVI.

The rumor has been slowly spreading through the Bohol Association of Catholic Schools and Catholic Educators Association of the Philippines (CEAP) that concrete results are wrapped in CVI's student portfolios.

Is the pilgrimage justified?

The National Academy of Science and Technology, sensing success, made the Bernidos plenary speakers at its 26th Annual Scientific Conference in Manila last August. The CEAP National Convention did the same on Sept. 16 and the Fund for Assistance in Private Education (FAPE) has made the Bernidos a permanent fixture in all its regional fora. Wherever they speak, they light up the audience with excitement.

LEARNING/A16

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon will have cloudy skies with rainshowers while the eastern section of Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/02/20/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Abus attack, kill 3 soldiers

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Abu Sayyaf bandits, firing bazookas, killed three soldiers and wounded a fourth yesterday as the soldiers were returning to camp in Jolo after going marketing, police said.

This brought to 30 the number of government troops killed in clashes with Moro gunmen since renewed fighting broke out in Jolo on Feb. 7

ANC television network said five Abu Sayyaf gunmen were killed when the soldiers fought back but the police report mentioned no casualties among the attackers.

"The soldiers were mutilated when the bazooka hit them," a senior police official told the INQUIRER.

The Abu Sayyaf attackers fled with the soldiers' Armalite rifles.

In civilian clothes

The Army's Joint Task Force Comet chief, Brig. Gen. Agustin Dema-ala, confirmed the deaths of the soldiers but declined to give further details.

"You won't get any additional details from me as long as the clashes are ongoing," he said in a raised voice.

Police identified the slain soldiers as a Pfc. Gemino, a Cpl. Donggay and a S/Sgt. Estabino.

A fourth soldier, a S/Sgt. Hordesta was wounded.

Supt. Suaibon Jalad, Sulu provincial director, said the soldiers were ambushed at around 10 a.m. in Barangay Bunot, Indanan, by an Abu Sayyaf group headed by Albader Parad and Biting Bara.

Military shelling

The soldiers, in civilian attire, had gone marketing and were on board a Light Ace vehicle when they were attacked, police said.

Southcom chief Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza declined to give details, except that an encounter had occurred with the Abu Sayyaf.

A reporter for dzBB radio in Jolo town near Indanan reported that the area was shelled by military artillery and saw two armored vehicles rushing toward Indanan to help recover the government casualties.

Philippine flag raised

Since the current conflict began about 12 days ago, more than 70 soldiers have been wounded in clashes with members of the Moro National Liberation Front loyal to jailed leader Nur Misuari.

The military said pro-Misuari forces were being backed by the Abu Sayyaf.

Troops have killed about 40 insurgents and wounded scores of others, but there has been no body count of guerrilla casualties.

On Wednesday, hundreds of triumphant soldiers hoisted the Philippine flag in Bitan-ag, a fortified hinterland camp near Panamao town that was wrested a day earlier by troops from the pro-Misuari guerrillas.

Un-Islamic

The camp is about 30 km east of the scene of yesterday's ambush in Indanan.

Habir Malik, leader of the pro-Misuari rebels, has denied any links with the Abu Sayyaf, saying that group's activities—kidnappings and beheading of hostages—were un-Islamic.

Malik said his men were forced to strike against the soldiers in retaliation for the killing of several civilians, including a child, in the government's pursuit of the Abu Sayyaf. *With a report from AP*

'I cry every time a soldier is killed'

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Efren Abu is like a father to all Filipino soldiers. So when a soldier dies in battle, he becomes emotional. It's always as if he has lost a son.

"Every time a soldier is killed, I cry," Abu said, adding that one cannot help but cry because "you know they did that not for personal reasons."

Abu was referring to the death of 30 soldiers fighting the followers of former Moro National Liberation Front chair Nur Misuari in Sulu the past weeks.

The general also recalled seeing many soldiers die when he was still a junior officer.

"And I saw them die in my arms," he said.

What's more painful is how to break the news to the families of the slain soldiers.

Pfc. Basri Habir, a former MNLF fighter who was integrated into the military, said he still could not believe that Lt. Col. Dennis Villanueva, commander of 53rd Infantry Battalion, was killed in the Sulu fighting.

Habir said he carried Villanueva from the site where there was heavy mortar firing. Already wounded, Habir recalled, Villanueva was still giving operational instructions.

"I saw in his eyes, how alive and strong he was, I could not imagine that he died. He said he would return after medical treatment in Jolo," Habir said in Filipino.

Habir said it was indeed painful for them because Villanueva was "one of the few officers who gave us importance whether in war or simply in the barracks."

Showing loyalty to the Armed Forces, Habir admitted that as a Muslim, the fighting was like "fighting our own people."

Habir received a Gold Cross Medal for gallantry. But for him, the medal is nothing compared to the lives of his fellow soldiers. "I will just dedicate and offer this medal to Sir Villanueva," he said.

As fighting rages in Bitanag, Panamao town on Feb. 12, one officer stood his ground and tried to reach to as many soldiers as he can on radio. He read to them Psalm 91.

Maj. Emmanuel Sison, the officer who replaced Villanueva, said Lt. Samson Lozano delivered prayers to the troops on the ground through radio.

Lozano was later injured while trying to rescue other wounded comrades. He is still at the intensive care unit at the Camp Navarro Hospital.

Sison, who himself sustained shrapnel wounds, is set to return to Panamao next week.

2 troopers slain in NPA ambush

COMMUNIST rebels killed two soldiers and wounded five others in an ambush in Occidental Mindoro, police said yesterday.

The soldiers from the 16th Infantry Battalion were traveling Friday in a vehicle when they came under fire by New People's Army guerrillas in Barangay Ligang, just outside Mamburao, the provincial capital, regional police chief Alejandro Lapinid said.

Police were sent to reinforce the troops and pursue the rebels, Lapinid said.

Communist Party spokesperson Gregorio Rosal told dzBB radio the attack was the NPA's "contribution to the speedy downfall of President Macapagal-Arroyo, to end the suffering of the Filipino people under her government."

The government and the communist insurgents have entered into peace talks, but have not agreed on a ceasefire. Sporadic clashes continue.

Rosal claimed in a text message on Friday that five soldiers had been wounded.

Wounded

2nd Lt. Jovily de la Fuente-Cabading, commanding officer of the joint military and police force based in Naujan town, confirmed the two military casualties but said only three soldiers were wounded.

He identified the two slain soldiers as Cpl. Bebino Umbac Jr. and Pfc. Michael Adoremos.

The wounded soldiers were Cpl. Ignacio Angga, Pfc. Zarriman Timajo and Cpl. Noli Escarcha.

NPA rebels also staged two separate attacks against government forces at about midnight on Friday in Lucena City and in Calaca, Batangas.

No casualties were reported by both sides in the two attacks.

Cabading said soldiers have been pursuing communist rebels in Occidental Mindoro since Feb. 16.

He said government troops overran a rebels' camp in Mt. Iglit, Barangay Poypoy in Calintaan town, Occidental Mindoro, some 80 to 90 km from Mamburao.

He said Mangyan tribespeople had informed the soldiers of the NPA sightings, which had been noted even earlier.

Rosal denied that it was an NPA camp, however.

In the Lucena City attack, two motorcycle-riding suspected NPA rebels threw fragmentation grenades at the gate of Camp Guillermo Nakar, the headquarters of the military's Southern Command.

Detachment

Another group of rebels attacked a military detachment in Barangay Kahil, in Calaca, Batangas.

Rosal described them as "synchronized attacks against the enemies in Quezon and Batangas."

Solcom chief Maj. Gen. Pedro Cabuay dismissed the attacks as ordinary crime incidents but said the authorities would investigate.

AP and Madonna T. Virola and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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Rights groups buck visit of Burmese PM

By Philip C. Tubeza

HUMAN rights groups yesterday slammed the scheduled visit of Burmese Prime Minister Lt. Gen. Soe Win to Manila tomorrow and would hold a rally today in Mendiola to protest the visit.

The Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID) and the Free Burma Coalition-Philippines (FBC-Phils) said the Philippines should uphold its democratic tenets and pressure Soe Win, the leading member of the military junta that rules Burma, to start implementing democratic reforms.

"We don't support dictatorships. We ousted two presidents who were corrupt and undemocratic. But this commitment to democracy should reflect in our government's dealing with Burma. Please, let us not become the evil that we deplore," said IID Executive Director Gus Miclat.

They also urged the government to oppose the Burma's chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations next year.

Soe Win is expected to arrive tonight and is scheduled to meet with President Macapagal-Arroyo and Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo tomorrow.

"We hope that GMA and Secretary Romulo engage Soe Win with more than the official cozy chat. They should let the Burmese leader explain why up to now, despite regime change, the clamor for reforms in Burma remain unattended," the FBC said.

It said giving Soe Win a "red carpet welcome" would be "tantamount to the Philippine government tolerating if not actually promoting the undemocratic governance of the generals."

"Let us not be blinded by the benefits of bilateral trade or cooperation agreements with Burma if this explicit support for the regime would only prolong the sufferings of the 52 million Burmese," it added.

The two groups accused Soe Win, who succeeded another general, Khin Nyunt, after a top-level power struggle in Burma last year, of masterminding the "Depayin Massacre" in May 2003 which allegedly claimed the lives of hundreds of supporters of the National League for Democracy (NLD), the biggest opposition party in Burma.

They said the attack was staged by government-paid goons and led to the injury of NLD leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, "who was the target."

The NLD won the elections held in Burma in 1990 but the ruling military junta, the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), did not allow the NLD to take power.

"Lt. Gen. Soe Win has blood in his hands. The military regime in Burma is an illegitimate government which has committed numerous human rights violations against its people, including rape, forced labor, employment of child soldiers and suppression of the press and free speech," Miclat said.

Industry sees hike in IT jobs

THE NUMBER of Filipinos working in the information technology (IT) field will increase by nearly a third to 207,000 by the end of this year, an industry association said Saturday.

About 160,000 Filipinos worked in the IT field at the end of 2004, the Information Technology Association of the Philippines said citing the results of a December survey which predicted the increase.

Information technology has been identified as a promising growth sector for the Philippines with the number of global call centers, data transcription services and other related services multiplying in recent months.

The survey covered 214 firms in both IT and other sectors including the Philippines' largest corporations and government offices.

Respondents expressed concern over the deteriorating English-language skills of young Filipinos, saying this threatened the competitive advantage of the Philippines in IT services.

The survey also indicated that out of 100 applicants for IT-related jobs, only 3.3 percent were hired.

The poll will help the Philippines address its strengths and weaknesses to maintain its competitive advantage in this field, said Harris Miller, president of the Virginia-based Information Technology Association of America that helped to fund the survey.

A Canadian market research firm said recently the Philippines has the potential to overtake market leader India in the global call center industry, even though local investments in the sector totaled just 116 million dollars last year. *AFP*

Nat'l ID bill faces rough sailing in Senate

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE ADMINISTRATION bloc in the Senate yesterday virtually dashed Malacañang's hopes that a measure would be passed calling for the establishment of a national identification system in a bid to boost its antiterror campaign.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan vowed to block any "attempts at passing a law that would violate the people's right to privacy."

He said the antiterror measure, which seeks a national ID system, was not in the agenda of bills up for floor debate in the next four weeks. Both chambers of Congress will take a Lenten break on March 18.

As majority leader, Pangilinan has a say on which bills go to floor for plenary debate or relegated to the Senate archives.

Earlier, administration Sen. Joker Arroyo said that Malacañang would trample upon the "people's civil liberties" if it pushed through with the ID system.

"It's laden with danger. It is an invitation for human rights violations," said Pangilinan, a lawyer and member of the Judicial and Bar Council.

The Supreme Court had ruled seven years ago against the establishment of a national ID system.

Instead of pushing a national ID system, Pangilinan said the government should speed up the disposition of criminal cases as a sure deterrent to the continued proliferation of crimes.

He believed that a national ID system was susceptible to abuse because it might be used as a means to track down and place under surveillance any person merely suspected as a terrorist.

Another senator said there is no need for a national ID system because there is already one in place.

"There is already a 'de facto' national ID card," Sen. Ralph Recto insisted, referring to the ID issued by the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. which was mandated to be given to all Filipinos.

Recto said Republic Act 7875, the National Heath Insurance Act of 1995 and charter of Philhealth, called for the "universal and compulsory" coverage of Filipinos under a national health insurance system.

The health insurance ID card is issued by Philhealth so it can "identify the member, verify his eligibility, and record his utilization of benefits."

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, however, defended the proposed national ID system, saying it would safeguard Filipinos from the specter of identity theft and misidentification with criminals and fugitives having the same names as theirs.

"Except perhaps for the passport and driver's licenses, which can also be forged or abused, we do not have an acceptable ID instrument that can truly vouch for a person's identity. That is why government agencies and private entities like banks require several IDs for a person to transact business.

Pichay said there was no conflict between a person's civil liberties and the establishment of a national ID system since this would only ensure the veracity of a person's identity.

Two former Marcos officials agreed that a national ID system was a good idea but is wrongly marketed by Malacañang.

Speaking at a news forum in Sulo Hotel, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and former Sen. Francisco Tatad, defense and press ministers, respectively, during martial law said there was nothing wrong with President Macapagal-Arroyo pushing measures in Congress to legalize a national ID.

Tatad said such a scheme would be "good" for the country, but the Arroyo administration had miserably failed in conveying this message.

"If the ID system is marketed as a service to the citizens and not an imposition by the police it will be accepted (by the citizenry)," said Tatad.

Enrile said a national ID was no different from the existing community tax certificate, or cedula, driver's license, senior citizen or Social Security System card.

"There is nothing wrong with an ID system. It is a must in a country," said Enrile, adding that a passport itself was an ID showing one's nationality.

Enrile had proposed a national ID system when he filed an antiterror bill in 1995, but it was strongly opposed by the public owing to his military background during martial law.

Watered-down VAT to lead to more taxes, Palace warns

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG yesterday warned that a watered-down version of the value added tax (VAT) reform bill would only lead to more new taxes until President Macapagal-Arroyo has achieved her self-imposed target of P80 billion in new revenues.

"We can get what we want in just one shot depending on what version of the VAT bill will be approved. But if it's a less strong version, it's possible that we will have to look for other measures," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in an interview over dzRH radio.

Bunye aired this warning to lawmakers and consumer groups opposing the VAT rate hike as he defended the President's move to spook the markets with her warning of an Argentina-type crisis in two years.

"We have every reason to raise the alarm considering that even amid the positive signs in our economy, there is still a pressing need to improve our fiscal condition," Bunye said in a statement.

Bunye warned that more taxes would be forthcoming if the highly contentious VAT bill would generate less than what the President had anticipated.

But the proposed bill raising the VAT rate from the current 10 percent to 12 percent is facing tough resistance at the Senate. The House has earlier passed its own version.

Congress has already passed the increase in excise tax on alcohol and tobacco products and the lateral attrition bill which are estimated to raise a total of P25 billion in new revenues starting this year.

Malacañang is hoping the higher VAT rate would be enough to fill up the remaining P55 billion of the P80 billion target. "If we reach our target with just three measures we don't need to push for more new taxes," Bunye said.

But the VAT rate hike is in danger of being watered down at the Senate as the chamber's ways and means committee has moved to retain the VAT rate while pushing for the removal of the VAT exemptions of independent power producers (IPPs), airlines shipping firms and cooperatives.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda said the government needed both the VAT rate hike and the lifting of VAT exemptions to meet the President's target. *With a report from Cynthia D. Balana*

VAT on power to worsen fiscal woes, says solon

IT'S LIKE killing the goose that lays the golden eggs.

This, in essence, is what will happen if the government insists on imposing VAT (value added tax) on the power sector, warned Camarines Sur Rep. Arnulfo P. Fuentebella yesterday.

Fuentebella, a member of the Joint Congressional Power Commission (JCPC), said the government has to look at this issue from a broader perspective and see how it can really achieve its goal of solving the fiscal deficit. He was making the remark during his interpellation last week on Committee Report No. 370 and House Bill No. 3705, which seeks to lift the tax exemptions of the electricity industry.

He said that while a 12 percent VAT on power can bring in about P26 billion in revenues, such a move will adversely affect the government's thrust to finally stop subsidizing the National Power Corp. as it will definitely send the wrong signals to investors. Napocor's cash deficit, he said, is worrisome as it already accounts for a third of the country's total budget deficit. The state power agency's losses were placed at P107.7 billion in 2003 and P103 billion in 2004.

Thus, solving Napocor's problem by reflecting its true costs and privatizing its generating assets will effectively give the government the needed cash to help put the country's financial footing back on solid ground, Fuentebella said.

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Feb. 26	Flower Power Parade (Street Dancing w/ Marching Band Competition)	Baguio Convention Center to Athletic Bowl
	Bulaklak sa Langit (Fireworks Display)	Athletic Bowl
Feb. 27	Parade of Floats (w/ Marching Band Competition)	Baguio Convention Center to Athletic Bowl
	Bulaklak sa Langit (Fireworks Display)	SM Baguio
Feb. 28 - Mar. 6	The Flowers "R" in Session	Session Road
Mar. 6	Bulaklak sa Langit (Closing Ceremonies)	SM Baguio

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Schools told to take blame for erring alumni

By Armand N. Nocum

IF SCHOOLS are quick to crow about their successful graduates, they should also own up to having produced the likes of retired Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia and other officials who have flunked the government's lifestyle check.

A Jesuit priest active in the fight against graft advised schools to take themselves to task for producing "misfits," if only to prevent more of their graduates from taking the wayward path.

"Let schools own up to their corrupt and wayward graduates. Why, they can also include them in their hall of fame," said Fr. Alberto Alejo S.J., facilitator and lecturer in the antigraft seminar series called "Ehem! Aha!"

The antigraft lecture series is a joint project of the Office of the Ombudsman and the Committee on the Evangelization of Culture of the Philippine Jesuits.

For schools to help fight graft, Alejo proposed the creation of an "alumni watch," a social network of school officials and alumni who will keep an eye on its graduates.

"If they know an alumnus, say a director in government, gaining notoriety for corruption, they should go up to him and say: '*Huwag ka naman masyadong garapal. Mapapahiya* batch *natin* (You shouldn't be greedy. You'll embarrass our batch),'" said Alejo in a recent interview.

Classmates and batch mates, he said, should look out for each other even after graduation.

However, people use their school ties to close shady deals or help cover up a scam especially in government, he lamented.

Alejo, who is assigned to the Ateneo de Davao University, also advised schools and alumni organizations not to glorify an alumnus who made it big through corruption and other illegal means.

"*Hindi dahil sikat at* corrupt, VIP (very important person) *na* (Just because you're famous and corrupt does not make you a VIP)," he said, admonishing schools who glorify officials who enrich themselves while in power.

He said the positive use of the social network could discourage many people in government from committing graft. In most cases, he said, family members could no longer stop a person from being dishonest.

He cited the case of Garcia, who is accused of amassing about P140 million in alleged ill-gotten wealth from the Armed Forces of the Philippines. He reportedly used his wife and children as dummies to hide his money here and in the United States. Garcia's relatives were also sued for graft before the Sandiganbayan.

Officials who failed the lifestyle check—most of whom are in the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Internal Revenue—were also found to have used family members and friends as dummies.

Schools, especially Catholic schools, should work hard to "produce good citizens and good governors" in the public sector, Alejo said.

The Ombudsman and the Jesuits have conducted more than a hundred antigraft seminars all over the country, covering about 15,000 people from the public and private sector.

'Love bonus' due next week

By Dona Pazzibugan

EMPLOYEES of the Department of Education will get their P3,000 "Valentine's bonus" next week, officials said.

Undersecretary for finance Juan Miguel Luz said all their regional offices except in five regions have started handing out what is officially called the productivity enhancement pay (PEP) last week.

Employees at the central office in Pasig City would get their bonus on Tuesday, he said.

Those in Regions I, II, VI, IX and Caraga can expect to get theirs a few days later, Luz added.

Public school teachers and all the rest of government workers had expected to receive their belated yearend bonus last Feb. 14, Valentine's Day.

When the bonus did not materialize again the next day, Feb. 15 which is a pay day, government workers roundly criticized Malacañang again.

According to Luz, DepEd Regions I, II, VI, IX and Caraga will receive their notice of cash allocation for the PEP on Monday.

"They will pay out within two days but before Feb. 28. All other regions have started or finished distributing the PEP already. Those at the central office will be paid by Feb. 22," Luz added.

Alice Panares, DepEd media director, said Regions I, II, VI, IX and Caraga will distribute the PEP by Feb. 26.

Malacañang's initial announcement that the belated yearend bonus would only amount to between P1,000 and P2,000 triggered fresh protests from among government employees unions.

Malacañang adjusted the amount to P3,000, but the employees still protested since they expected to get the same P5,000 cash gift that they received in December 2003.

Education Secretary Florencio Abad said state employees should be thankful that they are getting any cash gift at all.

He said the government had considered not to give any more bonus.

Domingo Alidon, the president of the DepEd's non-teaching workers union, reminded Abad that Malacañang promised to give the cash gift they were supposed to get last December on Valentine's Day.

He said the P3,000 bonus is not enough since government workers have not received any salary increase in the last four years.

Meanwhile, the Alliance of Concerned Teachers urged Malacañang to ask Congress to pass a supplemental budget for a P3,000 salary increase for public school teachers and other government employees.

He said the salary freeze in government has gone on for too long.

"Does GMA think her measly P3,000 Valentine gift will pacify the teachers? Compared to previous years, their mood is certainly very different now. Teachers are now in a fighting mood. They will not allow another year to pass without a substantial salary increase," ACT Chairperson Antonio Tinio said.

He said the workers' condition is aggravated by the government's insistence to impose new tax measures such as the 12-percent value added tax.

"Gloria was able to raise the salaries of the police and military, why can't she do the same for teachers?" he asked.

He said they are preparing for a nationally-coordinated protest of all government employees on March 16 "and it's going to be big."

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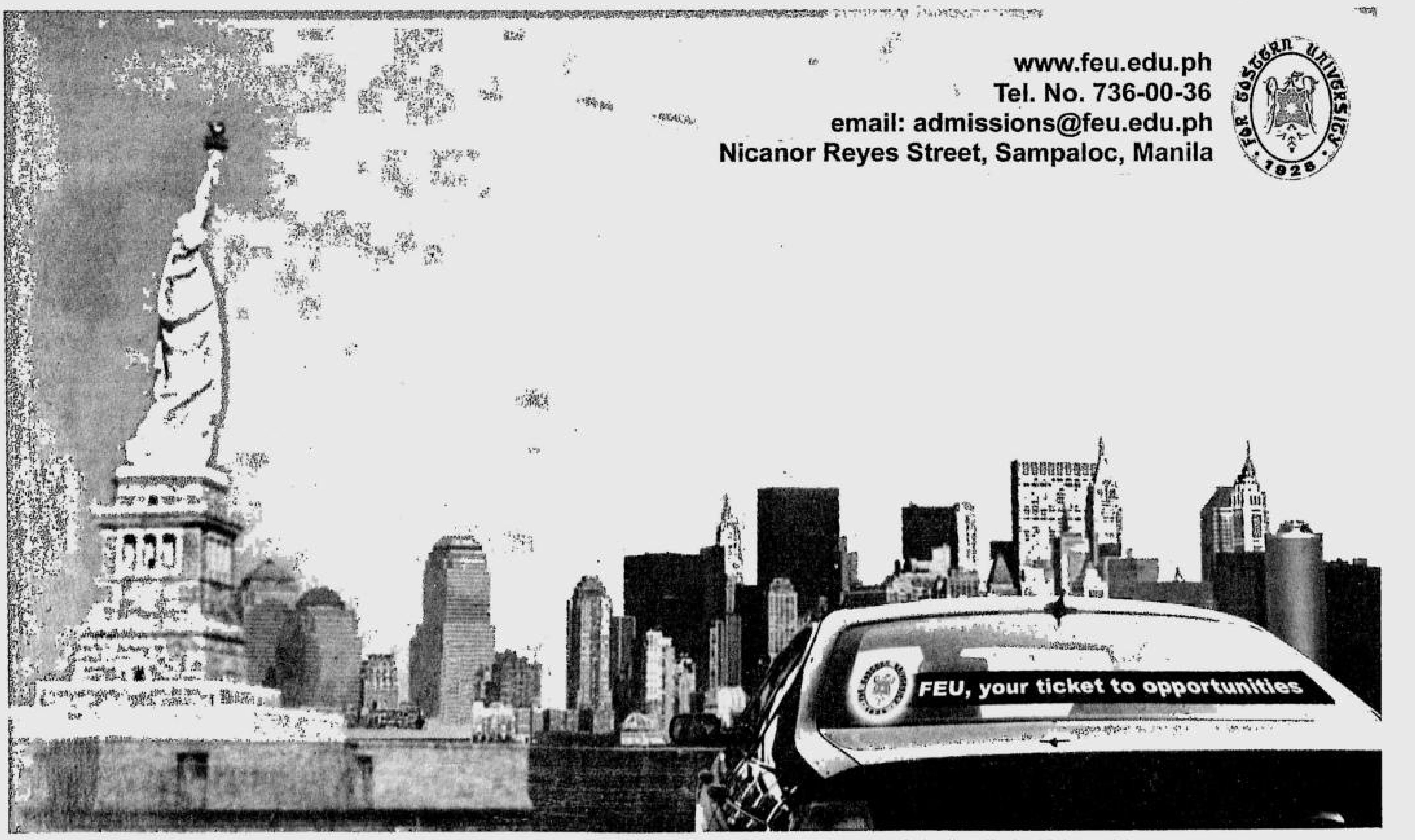

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Globe and SingTel launch the new Kababayan SIM for OFWs in Singapore

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One such exciting event that was recently concluded was the Search for the Filipino Star in Singapore Finals held at Neptune Theater on February 6, wherein 13 Filipino finalists competed with each other for the championship title. The esteemed panel of judges was made up of: Ms. Babes Conde, a vocal coach for the "Singapore Idol" program, Mr. Alan Supnet, Head of Overseas Mobile Services- Marketing of Globe Telecom, Ms. Cleo Santos, Head of Overseas Mobile Services- Sales of Globe Telecom, and Ms. Mari Sarah, a veteran contender in singing contests.

A SingTel sales representative explains the Kababayan sim features.

In the end, the following contenders sang their way to stardom: 1st Prize Winner- Robert Sunga, 2nd Prize Winner- Jun Abuyo, 3rd Prize Winner- Robert Borja, 4th Prize Winner- Edna Carbonell, and 5th Prize Winner- Lito Umali. The 1st to 4th place winners will have the opportunity to be known here in the Philippines through guest appearances and interviews in ABS-CBN Channel 2 shows as well as appearances in The Filipino Channel's "Sing-Song" program.

Alan Supnet and Kimmie Moreno of Globe Telecom with Carolyn Hong and Michael Lim of SingTel during a store visit at a SingTel hello! store.

The 13 talented finalists of the Search for the Filipino Star.

The Globe Team poses with the Ambassador and Embassy representatives after the Finals (L-R): Alan Supnet, Paolo Baltao, Embassy Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission Honey Isleta, OWWA Welfare Officer to Singapore Erlinda Arabejo, Ambassador Belen Anota, Kimmie Moreno, Labor Attache Merriam Cuasay, Cleo Santos, and SingTel Representative Carolyn Hong.

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The ecstatic audience of the Search for the Filipino Star Finals who won free Kababayan SIMs.

Singapore's sing-sational Pinoys (L-R): 1st prize- Rober Sunga, 2nd Prize- Jun Abuyo, 3rd prize- Robert Borja.

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Terror threat still high, US warns RP

From page A1

Sought by another INQUIRER reporter, Razon said: "We would like to see the warning so we can very verify the basis of the report."

But he said the police had already increased their presence in commercial areas, seaports, airports and mass transit systems.

Antiterror bill

Malacañang avoided direct comment on the US advisory but instead pushed for the adoption of tougher antiterror laws and a national identification system.

"Terror can strike anytime anywhere but this awareness should not instill fear but more vigilance and institutional action," Communications Director Silvestre Afable said.

"That is why President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is rallying the people behind strong measures, such as the national ID system and an internal security act with more teeth."

A welcome tip

Miltiary spokesperson Brig. Gen. Jose Angel Honrado said the military was doing all it could to preempt future attacks.

He said the military had "mobilized all intelligence gathering resources at our disposal, both human and electronic," to verify such reports.

"We welcome information like this because it affects national security. Any information from any friendly government will be useful. With it, we can take all the necessary precaution," Honrado added.

Solon sees US hand

Honrado said the the military had been receiving "a lot of reports" about the possibility of more terror attacks.

"We have to consider all information coming in," he said.

In Mati, Davao Oriental, a militant lawmaker accused the government and the United States of being behind the Valentine's Day attacks.

RAZON: We have to verify basis of warning.

Bayan Muna Rep. Joel Virador told a multi-sectoral forum that the bombings were aimed at justifying the passage of the "very dangerous" ant-terrorism bill.

"The bombings in Makati, Davao and General Santos [are] not the handiwork of the terrorist group Abu Sayaf. It is the handiwork of the US government in connivance with President Macapagal Arroyo," he said.

US envoy unfazed

"They want the public to believe that the bombings were related to the massive military operation in Sulu," Virador said.

He said he was not making a baseless accusation.

"That is based on our own investigation," Virador said. He did not say how and when the investigation was conducted.

Despite the reported threats of more bombings, US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone and Mindanao officials pushed through with the inauguration yesterday of a US-funded bridge in a former rebel stronghold in Maguindanao.

Officials said the construction of the bridge in Barangay Sarmiento, which used to be Camp Abubakar of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, was part of a partnership program between the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and the Growth for Equity in Mindanao (GEM), a group funded by the United States Agency for International Development.

Ricciardone also visited a corn shelling facility and witnessed the turnover of personal computer units to an Islamic school in Cotabato city. They were also US-funded projects.

Boosting fight vs terror

Leyte Rep. Eduardo Veloso said the US government's commitment to give $4 million in intelligence aid to the Armed Forces of the Philippines would boost the country's fight against terrorism.

He said the US fund offer was timely in view of the current conflict in Sulu and the recent spate of bombings.

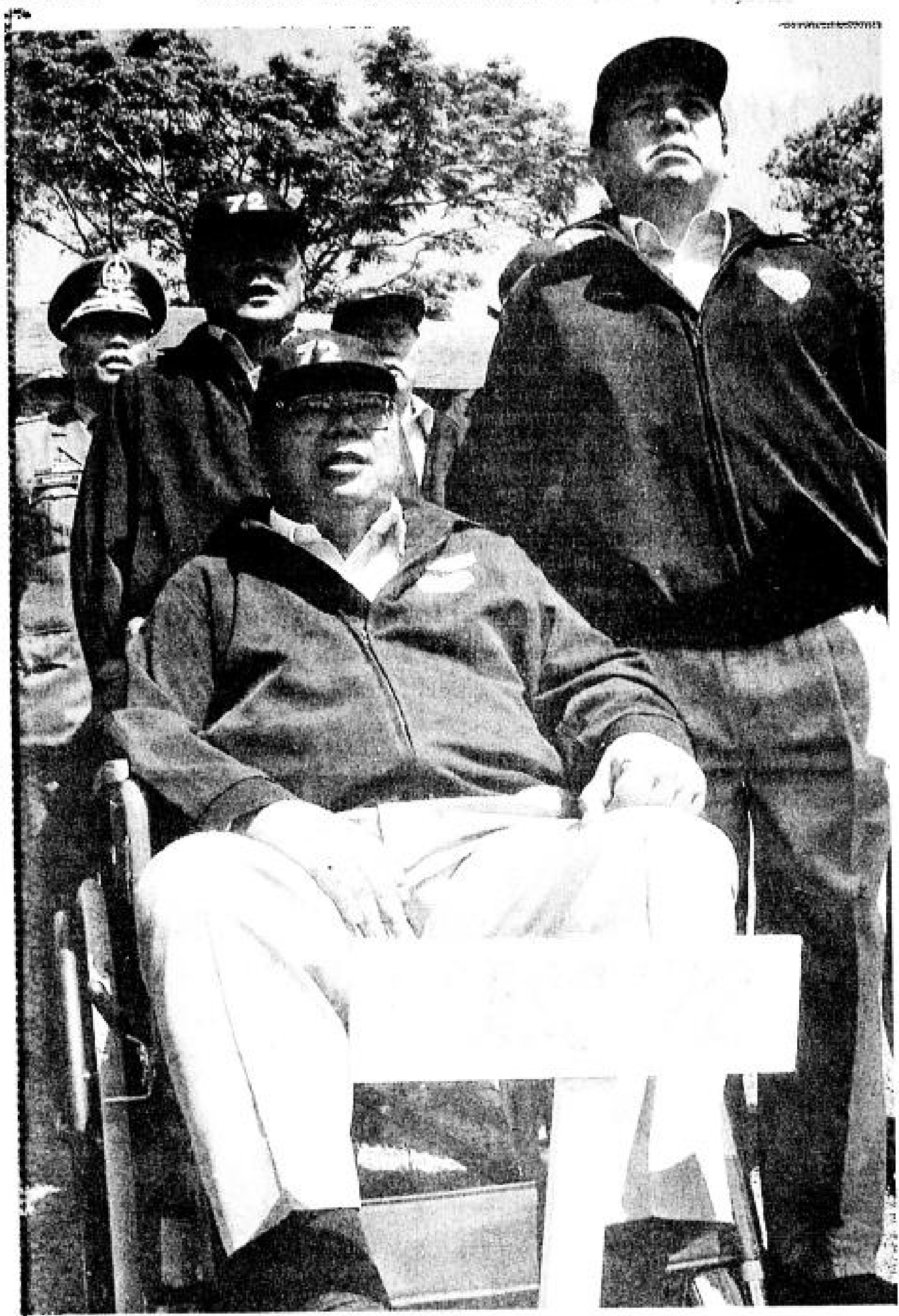
"The US intelligence aid fund is meant to boost [the AFP] intelligence-gathering activities but the success of the military operations remain to be seen," Veloso said.

'Heightened awareness'

The US State Department said in its advisory that it "continues to receive information that there may be future bombings," including against commercial shipping.

"In view of a number of security-related incidents and the possibility of future terrorist attacks, and other violence or criminal activity, Americans traveling to or residing in the Philippines are urged to exercise caution and maintain heightened security awareness," it said.

The advisory urged US citizens to defer non-essential travel to central, southern and western Mindanao, and to Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and Jolo due to military operations against kidnappings and other criminal activity. *AFP, AP, with reports from Alcuin Papa, Nancy C. Carvajal, Cynthia D. Balana, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr in Manila; Ferdinand O. Zuasola and Nash B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



FIRST casualty of PMA Class '72, Lt. Col. Esmeraldo Romano leads his class at the PMA's alumni homecoming at Borromeo Field in Fort del Pilar, Baguio City. Beside him is Sen. Richard Gordon, an adopted "mistah" of Class '72.

Talking peace better, says wheelchair-bound colonel

From page A1

like himself.

He is now the executive vice chair of the Kapisanan ng mga Sundalong may Kapansanan sa Pilipinas Inc., whose aim is to extend assistance to handicapped soldiers.

'90-percent dead'

By the account of Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan, Armed Forces vice chief of staff and a member of PMA Class '72, a bullet pierced Romano's helmet, entered his skull and shattered parts of his brain during that fateful clash in Barangay Batungal in Basilan.

Romano, then a second lieutenant, was a platoon leader of the Army's 26th Infantry Battalion. A classmate, then 2nd Lt. Donato Rosete III, carried him away from the battle zone and saved his life.

"[He] was paralyzed, he was given up for dead. He was 90-percent dead," Adan said. "For years, he was at the V. Luna Hospital (the AFP Medical Center in Quezon City), and he slowly recovered."

Adan said class members pooled their resources to help Romano through his recovery and financed his studies while in the service.

With his right hand paralyzed, Romano went back to school and learned to write again using his left hand.

He was able to complete a degree in public administration at the University of the Philippines and a master's degree at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Romano spent a total of 24 years in the military service and retired as a consultant of the Department of National Defense, Adan said.

Still fighting same enemy

Adan pointed out that the group his classmates engaged in battle in Basilan in 1972 was the same rebel band that government troops had been fighting in the latest armed conflict in Sulu.

"Imagine, that was 30-plus years ago, and still we're fighting the same group now," he said.

Romano observed: "There were a lot of people who died [in the conflict in Mindanao], and in the long run, those are the things you stress. If we will be given a choice, then we'll look for peace."

The Class of 1972 has produced two lawmakers (Pangasinan Rep. Amado Espino Jr. and the late Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo) and two superintendents of the PMA (the incumbent, Lt. Gen. Cristolito Balaoing, and Adan).

Other members of the class are Gen. Efren Abu, AFP chief of staff, and Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga, commanding general of the Army.

Yet another member of the class, Director Arturo Lomibao, now chief of the Philippine National Police directorial staff, is credited for capturing insurgent leaders like Jose Ma. Sison, founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines, and Bernabe "Kumander Dante" Buscayno, former commander of the CPP's armed wing, the New People's Army.

Lomibao is one of the frontrunners for the post of PNP chief Edgardo Aglipay who's retiring next month.

Helping veterans

Sen. Richard Gordon, an adopted member of PMA Class '72, said he and Espino would file separate bills seeking to improve the plight of soldiers and to help the likes of Romano.

"We should help our veterans," Gordon said.

LICKIN' GOOD: Triplets Rosemarie, Rosalinda and Rosario Valcorza, one of only 10 triplets at the Festival of Twins are close to the age of the "terrible twos."

REM ZAMORA

For 13th year, Joker still most tight-fisted in Congress

From page A1

list of audited expenses of senators released recently by the Commission on Audit.

For that single year, Arroyo shared the most close-fisted title with Sen. Juan Flavier who spent P12.3 million in the same period.

According to Arroyo, it would be "morally repulsive" to spend a lot of money for legislative work when more than half of the population is wallowing in poverty.

He has followed this dictum since becoming a member of the House of Representatives, where he served for nine years as congressman for Makati. He won a Senate seat in 2001.

While most legislators would rush to the budget department at the first sign that the money for their Priority Development Assistance Fund, the infamous pork barrel, was available, Arroyo has not bothered to touch his share of the pork barrel funds as congressman and senator. And he has done so without fanfare.

(Sen. Panfilo Lacson, who became a senator in 2001, started a campaign for the abolition of the pork barrel system in 2003 and declared that he was giving up his pork barrel funds for that year.)

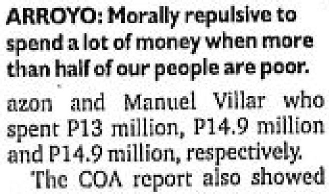
Arroyo and Flavier were not parsimonious about attending Senate sessions, however.

Arroyo, who chairs the Senate blue ribbon committee, and Flavier, the Senate President Pro Tempore, had the best attendance record of the 22-member chamber.

The COA report showed Sen. Ralph Recto, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and former Sen. John Osmeña to be the Senate's high rollers, spending above the P15-million median.

Osmeña spent P17.4 million, Pimentel, P17.5 million, and Recto, P17.8 million. They each spent P5 million more than the frugal Arroyo and Flavier.

Following closely were Senators Edgardo Angara, Rodolfo Biazon and Manuel Villar who spent P13 million, P14.9 million and P14.9 million, respectively.



ARROYO: Morally repulsive to spend a lot of money when more than half of our people are poor.

The COA report also showed that Filipino taxpayers spent a total of P346 million to maintain the Senate, or an average of P15 million a year per senator.

Role models

Villar, who is a member of the Wednesday Club of senators that Arroyo leads, said Arroyo and Flavier were "role models" on how to use scarce government resources with maximum results.

"We should emulate these senators. They gave up what was rightfully theirs, so that others will have more. What a virtue," said Villar.

He said he did not consider them to be "kuripot" at all.

"They just know the value of money. They are used to working with limited funds," said Villar, who chairs the Senate finance committee.

Villar, a millionaire property developer, is the richest senator, declaring P531.2 million in his statement of assets and liabilities for 2003.

Flavier was the poorest senator with income and assets of P2 million and Arroyo the third poorest with P11 million.

Only 3 staff members

Arroyo said in an earlier interview that he was proud of his spending record.

"I deprived myself of about P5 million," he said.

Besides his driver, Arroyo has only three staff members. He writes his own press statements and personally organizes his press conferences.

To reduce expenses, he makes a regular practice of going to the Senate press room where he makes himself available for media interviews.

Over cups of coffee provided by the staff of the Senate Public Relations Information Bureau, Arroyo would unleash his tirades against the alleged excesses and abuses of various government officials.

Consistently frugal

When his comments find their way into the front pages of the major newspapers the next day, Arroyo would personally call the reporters responsible, telling them that they had been "of service to the nation."

The itemized list of audited expenses for the Senate in 2002 showed that Arroyo spent the least of all the senators, spending only P8,132,867.75. The amount covered everything, from staff salaries, meetings and conferences, to professional or consultancy fees, supplies and materials, rental of office space and equipment, and official trips around the country.

Flavier again followed him in the thriftiness department, spending only P9.4 million in 2002.

The medium-range spenders that year were Angara (P10.4 million), Villar (P10.6 million), and Sergio Osmeña III (P10.9 million).

In the same year, former Senate Minority Leader Vicente Sotto III topped the list of Senate high-rollers, spending more than P12 million of taxpayers' money.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Go travel, DOT urges RP tourists

By Jerome Aning

DURANO

I LOVE the Philippines... *Biyahe Na!*

The tourism department has launched its latest marketing catch phrase, directed in particular at domestic tourists and travelers from North America.

Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano said the slogan was in line with the department's new market-specific promotion approach, designed to follow up on the awareness created by the "Wow Philippines" and "Biyahe Tayo" programs of his predecessors.

Last year, Durano said, six million Philippine residents traveled within the country.

Another 400,000 people, mostly expatriates, returning migrant workers and United States-based Filipino-Americans, traveled to the Philippines.

The DOT hopes to top these figures with the new marketing approach.

"When we were trying to come up with the concept, it came out that the best way to trigger and activate this market is by inspiring their sense of love and pride for the country," Durano explained during the launching at Westin Plaza hotel last Friday.

"There is no better way to express this love and pride than by saying 'I love the Philippines,'" he said.

But rekindling and inspiring a sense of pride and love was not enough, Durano said.

"We have to inspire them to act as well. So our message is: If you love your country, and if you want to go on a vacation, have your vacation here in the Philippines. If you love the Philippines, be a tourist in the Philippines," he said.

This was how "*Biyahe Tayo*" (Let's travel), which denoted a mere invitation, became "*Biyahe Na*" (Go, travel), which is a call to act, he said.

Pop singer Regine Velasquez, who will be the face and voice of the campaign, sang the revised theme song "*Biyahe Tayo*" for broadcast ads at the launch.

Velasquez's face will also appear in the campaign's print ads, posters and flyers.

In her spiel, Velasquez said she was honored and happy to be chosen as an endorser of tourist destinations in the Philippines.

The singer said that she has yet to visit all of the country's famous tourist spots. She said a boost in tourism would mean more jobs for Filipinos.

She laughingly recounted a visit to Palawan, where she was approached right at the airport by people selling islets, and a trip to Zamboanga during which she was mobbed by peddlers of pearls.

The advertising drive is being spearheaded, at no cost to the government, by the cell phone company, Smart.

Durano said other corporations like Jollibee, Shell Phil., Shoemart and Pfizer, would be launching similar tourism promotion programs in partnership with the DOT.

The campaign is to be done in three phases, with destinations and fiestas being promoted in the summer, food and shopping during the rainy months, and people and culture during the holiday season.

Durano earlier approved $4.5 million worth of market-specific tourism promotion campaigns for the other principal tourist markets of Japan, South Korea and China.

The slogan "Feel the Islands" will be used for the Korean tourist market.

Advertising that packages the Philippines as "Premium Resort Islands" will target Japan as the Japanese are said to be drawn by images suggested by the words "resort" and "islands."

Since the Chinese also use the word "wow" as an expression of awe, the "Wow Philippines" theme will be retained for that market.

The DOT aims to attract in 2005 at least 70,000 out of the estimated 20 million Chinese who travel outside their country annually.

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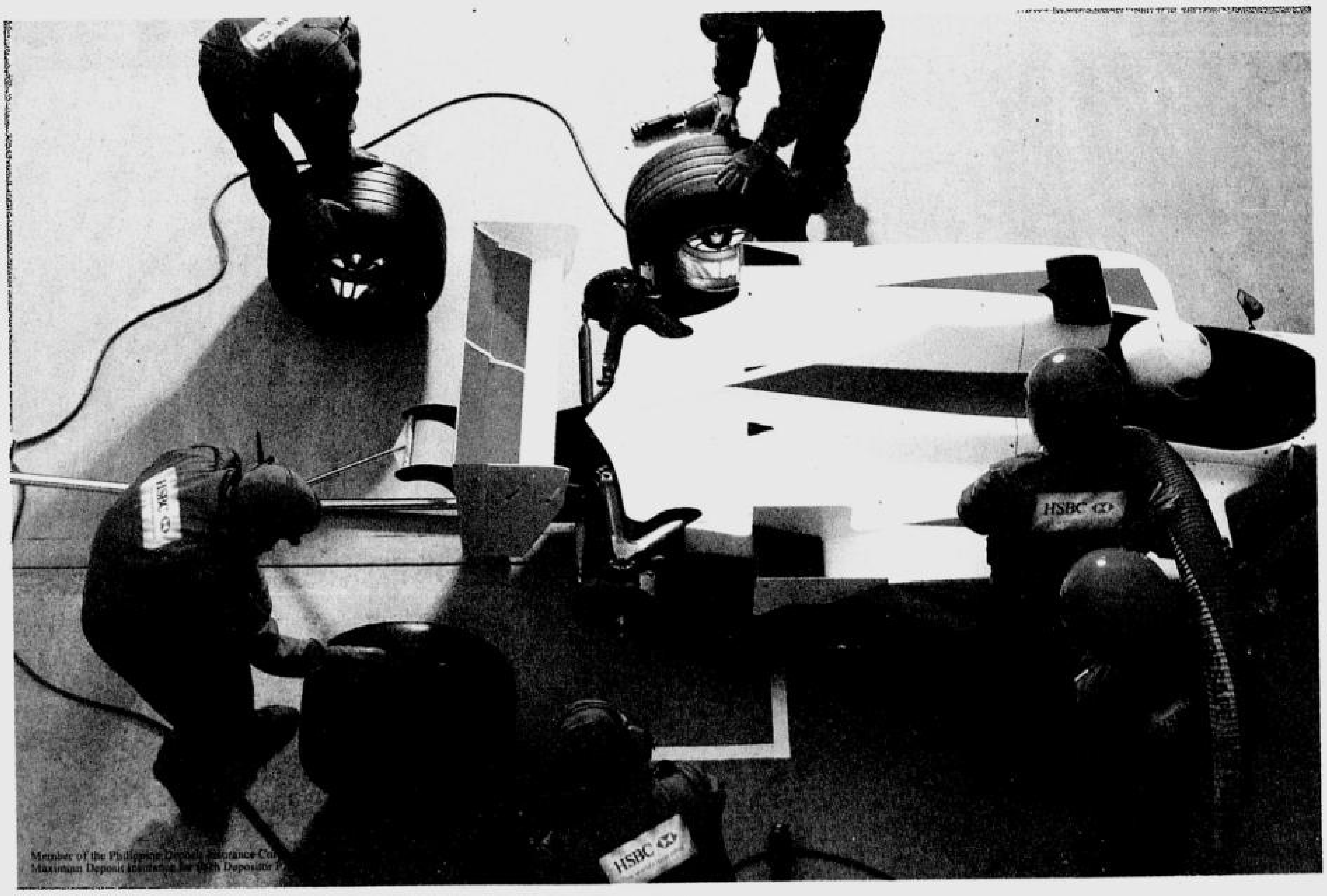

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

36 dead in bloodiest post-poll Iraq violence

BAGHDAD—Amid tightened security, Shiite Muslims in Iraq marked their holiest day of the year on Saturday, one day after a wave of bloody attacks killed 36 people in the deadliest violence to hit this insurgent-wracked nation since the Jan. 30 elections.

As hundreds of thousands of people converged on holy Shiite sites in the south, a car bomb exploded outside an Iraqi National Guard base in Baqouba, 60 km northeast of Baghdad, killing one Iraqi guardsman and wounding another, police Col. Muthafar Shihab said. The suicide bomber also died in the blast, he said.

Another car bomb exploded at an Iraqi army checkpoint in Latifiya, 30 km south of the capital, killing two Iraqi soldiers, an army officer said on condition of anonymity.

In southern Baghdad, gunmen holed up in a building opened fire on a funeral procession in which mourners were carrying coffins of some of the dead killed Friday in a bombing at the capital's al-Khadimain mosque, witnesses said.

Iraqi National Guard troops guarding the procession foiled the attack, however, returning fire and capturing one of the assailants, said Sgt. Ali Hussein. No casualties were reported.

Massive twin blasts in Karbala and Baghdad killed at least 181 people on Ashoura in 2004, and authorities, bracing for more violence, have stepped up security this year, prohibiting vehicle traffic—even motorcycles, bikes and pushcarts—into the holy city of Karbala in a bid to avert bomb attacks.

Hundreds of thousands of people thronged the streets of Karbala and other holy Shiite cities to mark Ashoura, which commemorates the death of the Shiite saint Imam Hussein, a grandson of the prophet Muhammad. Hussein was killed in a power struggle in the 7th century and is buried in a gold-domed shrine in Karbala.

There were no immediate claims of responsibility for Friday's blasts—three of them suicide attacks—in Baghdad and Iskandariyah, south of the capital. But Shiites blamed radical Sunni Muslim insurgents, who have staged car bombs, shootings and kidnappings to try to destabilize Iraq's reconstruction.

"Those infidel Wahhabis, those Osama bin Laden followers, they did this because they hate Shiites," said Sari Abdullah, a worshipper at Baghdad's al-Khadimain mosque who was injured by shrapnel from the explosion. *AP*

Pressure grows on Syria to quit Lebanon

BEIRUT—Pressure on Syria to pull out of Lebanon intensified Friday when nearly a third of MPs called on the pro-Damascus regime in Beirut to step down and make way for an interim government to oversee a withdrawal.

More than 40 of parliament's 128 deputies and dozens of opposition activists called on their fellow citizens to join a "democratic and peaceful uprising for independence… in response to the criminal and terrorist policy of the Lebanese and Syrian authorities."

Prime Minister Omar Karameh struck back, accusing the opposition of "planning a coup d'etat," but also said the government was open to "dialogue."

The opposition has accused the regime and its political masters in Damascus of having a hand in the massive bomb blast that killed former premier Rafiq Hariri and 14 others on Monday. But Interior Minister Suleiman Franjieh took issue with those accusations.

"We are trying to find out, through the investigation we are leading, who committed this attack, and we refuse to be held responsible for this assassination," he said.

Even before the opposition forces issued their call, the first crack appeared in the government lines, with the resignation of Tourism Minister Farid al-Khazen.

Considered loyal to pro-Syrian President Emile Lahoud, Khazen said "the current government is incapable of resolving the dangerous situation in the country." Businessman Wadih Khazen was named to replace him.

Reading a final statement after the opposition meeting, Samir Frangieh said "we called for the formation of an interim government as a supreme national necessity to protect the Lebanese people and ensure the immediate and complete pullout of Syrian forces from Lebanon ahead of free and honest legislative elections." *AFP*

IWO JIMA REVISITED
United States Marines from the 5th Division of the 28th Regiment gather around a US flag they raised atop Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima during World War II, Feb. 23, 1945. This was the first flag raised by the Marine Corps at Iwo Jima. The raising of a second, larger flag later that day was made famous in the prize-winning photo by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal. Raymond Jacobs, now 79, of South Lake Tahoe, Calif., claims that he was the radioman standing at right center in this photograph. AP

N. Korea says talks possible if US drops hostility

SEOUL—A top North Korean diplomat said Pyongyang would return to dialogue should Washington promise peaceful coexistence and non-interference, a news report here said Saturday.

Han Song-Ryol, North Korea's ambassador to the United Nations, also said if the United States dropped its "hostile" policy toward Pyongyang, the communist state would abandon its nuclear weapons and befriend the United States, the report said.

"If the United States promises co-existence and non-interference in internal affairs and guarantees substantial outcomes of talks, we are willing to come to dialogue in any form," Han was quoted as telling the Joongang Daily.

He said North Korea must also be convinced that any such talks would result in substantial outcomes in "denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula and renouncing hostile US policy (toward Pyongyang)."

North Korea said in a foreign ministry statement on Feb. 10 that it had manufactured nuclear weapons, accusing the United States of seeking to topple its Stalinist regime.

It said it was suspending its participation in six-nation talks on dismantling its nuclear programs but still wanted to use dialogue and negotiations to resolve the impasse.

"We have no alternatives but to possess nuclear weapons as long as the United States threatens to topple our system," Han said in the interview with the Joongang daily published Saturday. *AFP*

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Clinton, Bush tsunami tour begins in tears, hope

BAN NAMKHEM, Thailand—Former US Presidents Bill Clinton and George Bush began a tour of Asia's tsunami killing fields on Saturday in a devastated Thai fishing village which offered tears and hope.

"It's very moving," Bush said of a painting of the giant wave hitting the village presented to the presidential pair by a young girl whose mother was among the estimated 2,000 people killed in Ban Nam Khem. "I'll never forget this," he said.

Both were almost in tears when talking to reporters about the children who lost their parents in the Dec. 26 disaster.

But the village, which lost nearly half its people to a tsunami that may have killed 300,000 people around the Indian Ocean, was also in the throes of rebirth.

Thai soldiers were busy building houses of concrete or brick as bulldozers removed the last ruins of a village the tsunami almost wiped off the map but now a hive of activity.

"President Bush and I have done what we could to raise money and give help for all the tsunami-affected and we hope to learn some more about what else we can do," Clinton said in a village where surviving fishing boats sat among the buildings going up.

The former American leaders were appointed by Bush's father, President George W. Bush, to lead US fund-raising for survivors of the tsunami.

Ban Namkhem was the first main stop on a lightning four-nation tour, including Indonesia's Aceh province, the worst hit area, to keep attention on the disaster and encourage Americans and US firms to keep giving.

Private donors worldwide are estimated to have given more than $2 billion so far in relief aid for the world's worst natural disaster in living memory.

A lot of that money has been channelled via the Internet, which emerged during the crisis as a prodigious source of private relief funds. But Clinton told the recent Davos leaders' summit that donor fatigue was now a major challenge.

To keep the computer mice clicking, the trip will also try to highlight how the millions have already been spent, said US Embassy spokesperson Kathleen Boyle said.

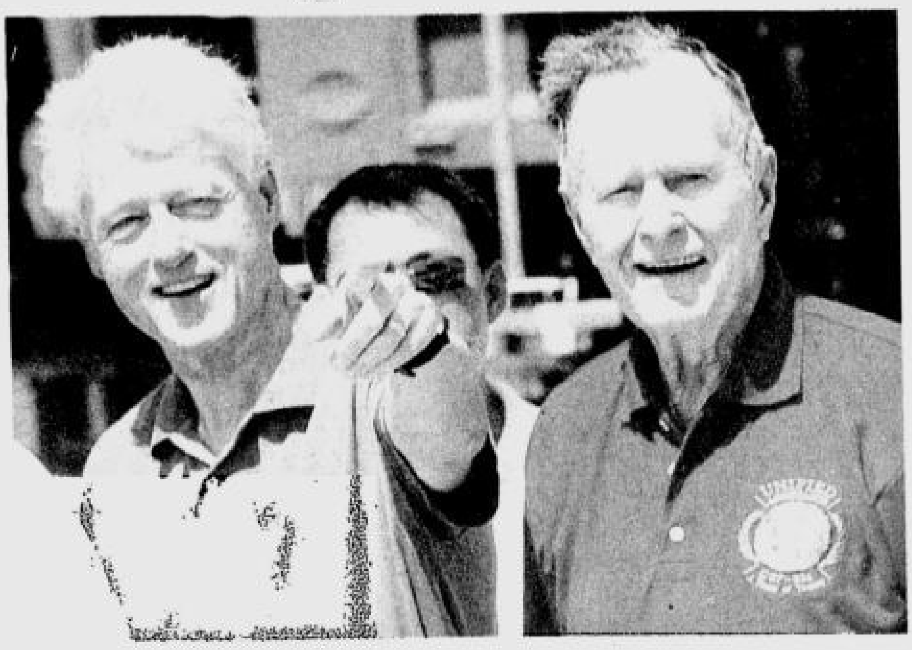
US money is being used to repair and rebuild boats in Ban Namkhem and other Thai villages in a region where fishing supports thousands of poor families.

But the region is also heavily reliant on tourism and as Clinton and Bush visited Ban Namkhem, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Sinhawatra was meeting industry officials on the nearby island of Phuket on how to rebuild it in the area.

The special focus was on Khao Lak, just south of Ban Namkhem, where the tsunami-wrecked resorts and hotels packed with European tourists and killed hundreds of them.

But the tourist industry on Phuket, one of Asia's premier beach resorts before the tsunami struck and now suffering from high season hotel occupancy rates of 15 percent, hopes Bush and Clinton will also show people the place is back in business.

"People who didn't know the geography thought the whole of Thailand was wiped out," said hotel manager Lee Sutton. "They will build confidence with the US market, which is important to us." *Reuters*



FORMER US Presidents George H.W. Bush, right, and Bill Clinton tour the tsunami-hit village of Ban Nam Khem in Pang-nga province, southern Thailand Feb. 19. The two who were appointed by President George W. Bush to head a nationwide private fund-raising, are on a goodwill visit to Thailand to review efforts to help recover the areas devastated by the Dec. 26, 2004 tsunami. AP

Powerful quake sparks panic in Indonesia island

JAKARTA—An earthquake measuring 6.9 on the Richter scale rocked Indonesia's Sulawesi island on Saturday, causing sea levels to rise and sparking fears of another tsunami, meteorologists and police said.

The undersea quake occurred at 8:04 a.m. with an epicenter 224 km south of Kendari, the capital of Southeast Sulawesi province, said Sutiono of the National Meteorology and Geophysics Agency.

Both the Hong Kong Observatory and the US Geological Survey's National Earthquake Information Center in Colorado gave an initial reading for the quake of 6.5 on the Richter scale.

Sutiono said he had received reports that the tremor caused sea levels to rise between three and four meters.

The quake struck almost eight weeks after December's devastating tsunamis wreaked havoc in western Indonesia's Aceh province and although the two were not connected, the tremor sparked alarm among locals.

A policeman in Butan, a town close to the epicenter, said people panicked, fearing a repeat of December's catastrophe, but that there were no immediate reports of any casualties.

"People rushed out of their homes fearing a tsunami. But they have returned home now and the sea is calm," he said.

He said the walls of several buildings were cracked.

The quake was strongly felt in Makassar, the capital of South Sulawesi province.

Residents in Makassar ran into the streets and employees working in high buildings rushed to get out, the state Antara news agency said. *AFP*

Cancer scare spurs UK recall of food products

LONDON—Britain's food safety watchdog ordered the recall Friday of more than 350 food products, ranging from pizza to a popular brand of instant noodles, after it found a potentially cancer-causing dye.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) said it was working with supermarkets and local authorities to make sure that all the affected goods are removed from the shelves and urged consumers who find them in their cupboards to contact the store where the food was bought for a refund.

The dye, known as Sudan I, "could contribute to an increased risk of cancer," said FSA chief executive Jon Bell, while downplaying the gravity of the health threat.

"At the levels present the risk is likely to be very small but it is sensible to avoid eating any more," he said in a statement.

"There is no risk of immediate ill health," Bell said.

The red-colored dye, which is used for coloring non-edible items such as petrol and shoe polish, was found in a batch of chilli powder used by the British company Premium Foods to make Worcester Sauce, which was then added as an ingredient in a wide range of products, the FSA said.

The agency has published a full list of the affected items, which are stocked by Britain's main supermarket chains and include ready-made meals such as shepherd's pie, pasta bake, chicken wings, pizza and chilli con carne. *AFP*

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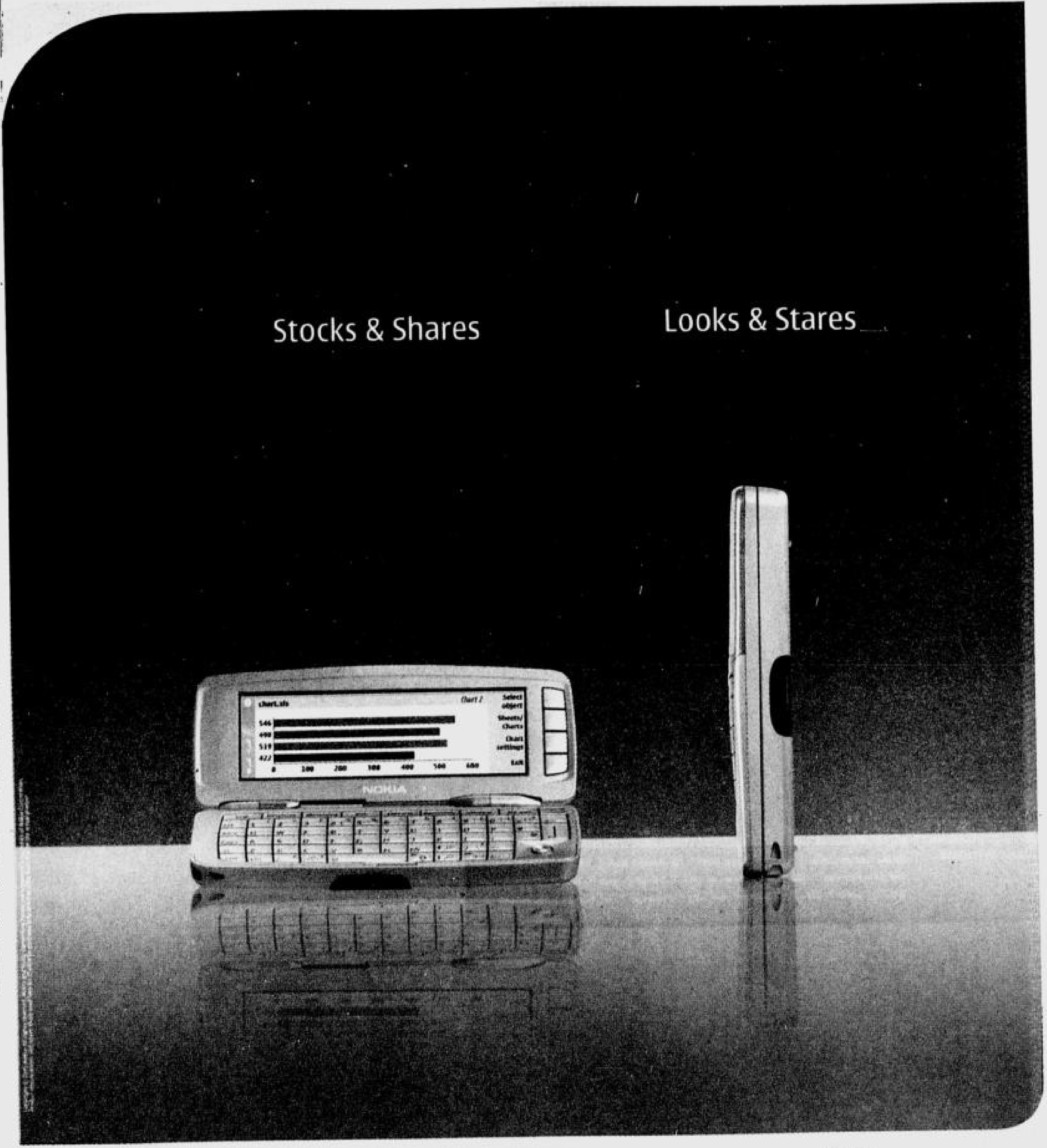

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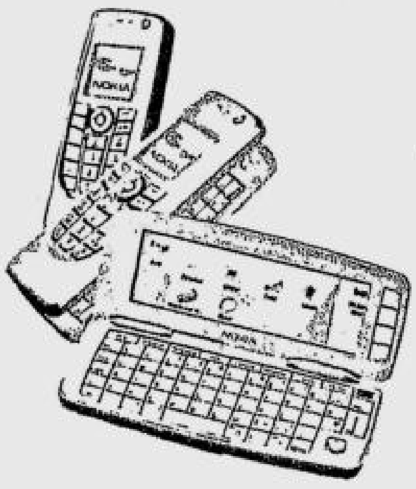

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Putin says Iran not building nuke arms

MOSCOW—Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday gave Iran a boost in its face-off with the United States over its nuclear program, saying he was convinced the Islamic Republic was not trying to build atomic weapons.

He said Russia would press on with nuclear cooperation with Tehran, which involves construction of a reactor at Bushehr in southern Iran.

Putin's defense of Iran came in the face of US concerns that Tehran could be using Russian know-how as a cover to build nuclear arms and less than a week before he meets US President George W. Bush for a summit.

"The latest steps by Iran convince Russia that Iran indeed does not intend to produce nuclear weapons and we will continue to develop relations in all sectors, including peaceful atomic energy," Putin told Iran's top nuclear negotiator, Hassan Rohani, at the start of Kremlin talks.

Putin's remark was certain to give Iran some comfort in its confrontation with the Bush administration, which has branded the Islamic Republic part of an "axis of evil" states bent on trying to develop nuclear weapons.

The Kremlin leader did not spell out what he meant by "latest steps."

But he could have been referring to Iran's agreement last year to suspend its uranium enrichment program—which can be used to make nuclear bombs—and its continuing talks with EU countries to find ways to settle the standoff diplomatically.

His unusually strong backing for Iran seemed to open up the possibility of Iran becoming a point of friction at his summit talks with Bush in the Slovak capital of Bratislava on Feb. 24.

The United States sought to play down the significance of Putin's comments and stressed what it said were the international community's concerns about Iran's nuclear activities.

"The IAEA has had suspicions about Iranian activities, the European Union had suspicions about Iranian activities, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in Washington.

And indeed the Russians have said the Bushehr nuclear reactor would have to be accompanied by... Iran's willingness to return fuel so that you could... diminish the proliferation risk," Rice said. *Reuters*

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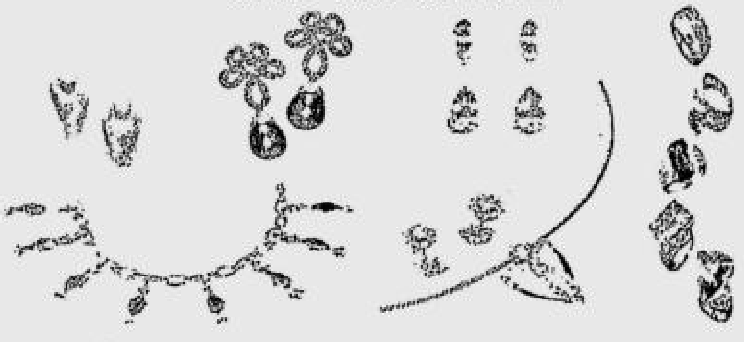

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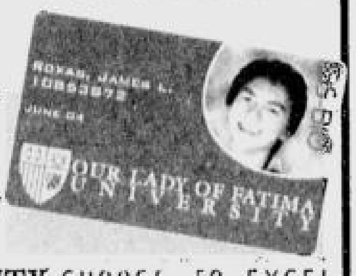

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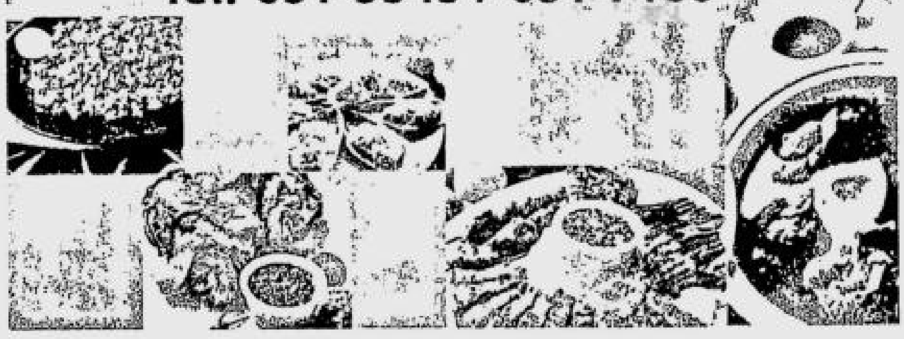

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The National Water Resource Board has continued the reduction of the raw water supply from Angat Dam to Metro-Manila that it implemented January 2005 due to the diminishing level of the Angat Dam, the continued blockage of the Umiray Tunnel which used to provide an additional 20 % to the domestic water supply, and the absence of rainfall due to the current El Nino phenomenon.

The reduced raw water supply, in turn, has severely affected the output of Maynilad's La Mesa Treatment Plants. As of February 17, 2005, the average output of the treatment plants has gone down from the normal 2265 million liters a day (MLD) to a low of 1935 MLD, a reduction of 330 MLD.

As has been stated in our first advisory, this development has reduced the water supply to elevated portions of the West Zone concession, including the following areas:

1. **Quezon City**: Toro Hills, Project 8; San Francisco Del Monte; and Commonwealth District
2. **Caloocan City**: Sta. Quiteria, Baesa, portion of Bagong Barrio, UE Subd., University Hills Subd., portion of East Grace Park, West Grace Park (DM Compound, PNR Compound, Heroes del 96), and Barangays Llano, Kaybiga, Bagbaguin and Deparo
3. **Valenzuela City**: Gen. T. De Leon, Upper Marulas, Tullahan, and Arkong Bato
4. **Malabon**: Part of Araneta Subd., Baong Lote, Upper Portion of Potrero, UE Subd., and Barangays Tugatog, Tinejeros, Santolan, Catmon, Tonsuya, Longos, Tanong, San Roque, Ibaba and part of Barangays Muzon and Bayan Bayanan;
5. **Navotas**: Tanza, Dagat-Dagatan Area, Barangays Tangos and San Roque and portions of Barangays Daang Hari and Bankulasi
6. **Manila**: Bacood, Sta. Mesa, Sta. Cruz District, portion of Binondo, and Gagalangin and Tondo Foreshore, Tondo District
7. **Paranaque City**: San Antonio Valleys 10 and 11, Marcelo Green Village Phases 1, 2, 3, 5 and 8, Justina Subd., Vitalez Compound, UPS 2 and 5, Camilla Townhomes, elevated portions of Better Living (Annexes 16, 18, 29, 32, 22 and Section 3), Don Agido Bernabe Subd. and Remanville Subd
8. **Las Pinas City**: Lozada St., St. Joseph Subdivision, Martinville, Pulang Lupa Dos, Dona Macaria, Pamplona, Manuyo Dos
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Maynilad is thus further intensifying its measures to allow it to mitigate the effects of the drastically reduced water supply. These include leak repairs, disconnection of illegal connections and replacement of old pipes and facilities, and the adjustment of valves to maximize the distribution of water to affected areas. Maynilad has also fielded more tankers to attend to the needs of affected residents.

These are apart from the on-going water recovery projects aimed at delivering the recovered water to underserved or unserved areas. These projects include the just-finished Tondo Foreshore F-1 Zone Pilot Project, the on-going Dagat-Dagatan Pipe Replacement Project in Caloocan City (and eventually Malabon and Navotas) and the Water Supply Improvement Project in Barangays Baclaran and Tambo in Paranaque City.

In view of this situation, we advise our customers to conserve water and not to use booster pumps directly connected to our mainlines.

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'Alive' crash victim's ID found 32 years later

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay—An American hiker in the Andes stumbled this week on the wallet of a survivor from the 1972 plane crash made famous in the movie "Alive," which shocked the world with tales of eating human flesh to survive.

The chance find—which also included a roll of film, cash, identity papers and a jacket—had been buried in the snow for 32 years a few meters from the crash site, according to Uruguay television reports.

The wallet's owner, Eduardo Strauch, said memories came flooding back to him of the harrowing 72 days stranded on the mountain at freezing temperatures.

The US hiker, whose name was not given, came upon the belongings while exploring the mountain.

They will be handed to Strauch next week. "It reminds me of of some happy moments we had up there on the mountain, spiritual moments as well as all the suffering and pain we went through," he said on television.

A Uruguayan rugby team, accompanied by family members and friends, was on its way to Chile on Oct. 13, 1972 for a friendly match when its plane struck a snowy mountain because of pilot error.

After 10 days on the mountain, the survivors heard on their radio that rescuers had given them up for dead. That was when they decided to dig up some of the dead bodies they had buried in the snow nearby and eat them.

Of the 45 people on the flight, sixteen survived 72 days on the mountain. They were only rescued when two of the survivors struck out to find help and ran into a Chilean man on horseback.

Hollywood dramatized the story in a 1992 movie. *Reuters*

US panel says Vioxx can return to market despite risks

GAITHERSBURG, Maryland—A US health advisory panel Friday confirmed cardiovascular risks from certain anti-inflammatory drugs, but agreed to the return of Vioxx, withdrawn last year, and continued sale of two similar medications whose safety was questioned.

The action by the special Food and Drug Administration advisory panel, which still must go before the full FDA, is a victory for Vioxx-maker Merck, which pulled the drug from the market last year.

The decision came from a joint meeting of the agency's arthritis advisory committee and the drug safety and risk management advisory committee, which was reviewing the safety of certain drugs in light of reports linking them to cardiovascular risks.

The FDA panel also approved Pfizer drugs Celebrex and Bextra for public use, after acknowledging heart risks from these medications.

The 17-15 ruling on Vioxx paves the way for Merck to bring the controversial painkiller back to pharmacies. But some analysts said the decision was important mainly to help Merck fight a flood of litigation from Vioxx users.

The scientific panel also voted 31-1 to keep Pfizer's Celebrex—also in the same class of drugs known as COX-2 inhibitors—on the market. Voting was tighter on Bextra, 17-13 in favor of keeping it on the market.

While the advisory panel's vote is not a final decision by the FDA, the agency generally always heeds the recommendations of its expert panels.

Vioxx, Celebrex and another Pfizer drug, Bextra, have been widely prescribed for arthritis and severe pain but have all come under fire recently for being linked to a higher incidence of cardiac problems in some patients.

All three drugs, though, were determined to cause heart risk by the panel in a unanimous vote. And a majority of panelists indicated they supported warning labels for all three, but did not take a formal vote on that matter.

The warning would disclose risks to patients of possible cardiovascular problems.

Merck pulled Vioxx from the market in late September after a clinical study linked long-term use to an increased rate of heart attack and stroke. The company is currently facing over 600 lawsuits over Vioxx, ranging from personal injury suits to an investigation by the Department of Justice.

Addressing the FDA panel on Thursday, Merck research chief Peter Kim said: "If the advisory committee and the FDA conclude that the benefits of this class outweigh the risks in some patient populations, then we would have to consider the implications of these new data given the unique benefits Vioxx offers." *AFP*

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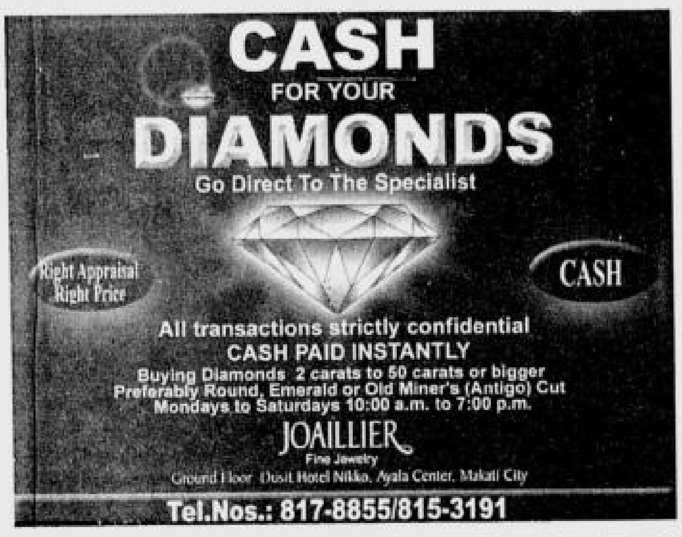

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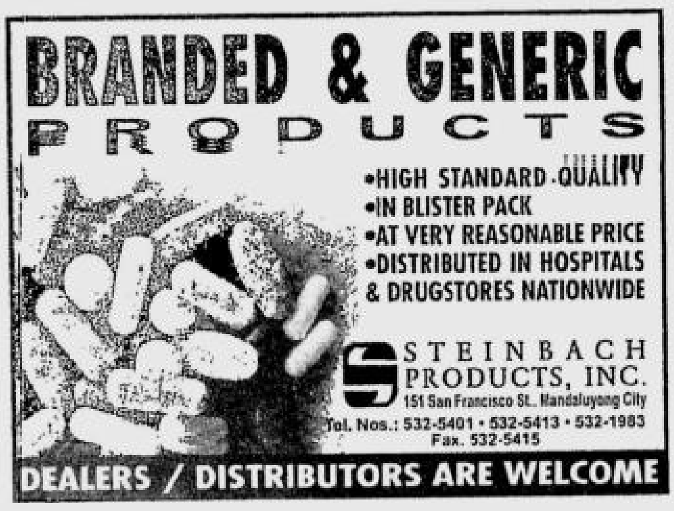

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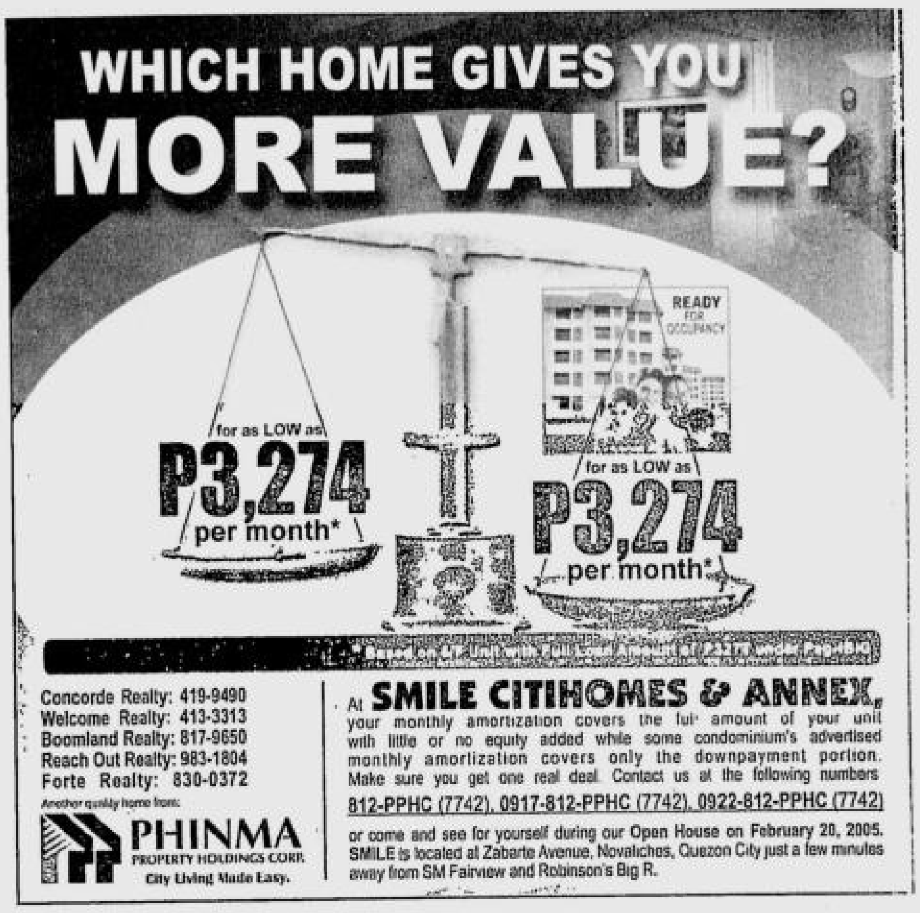

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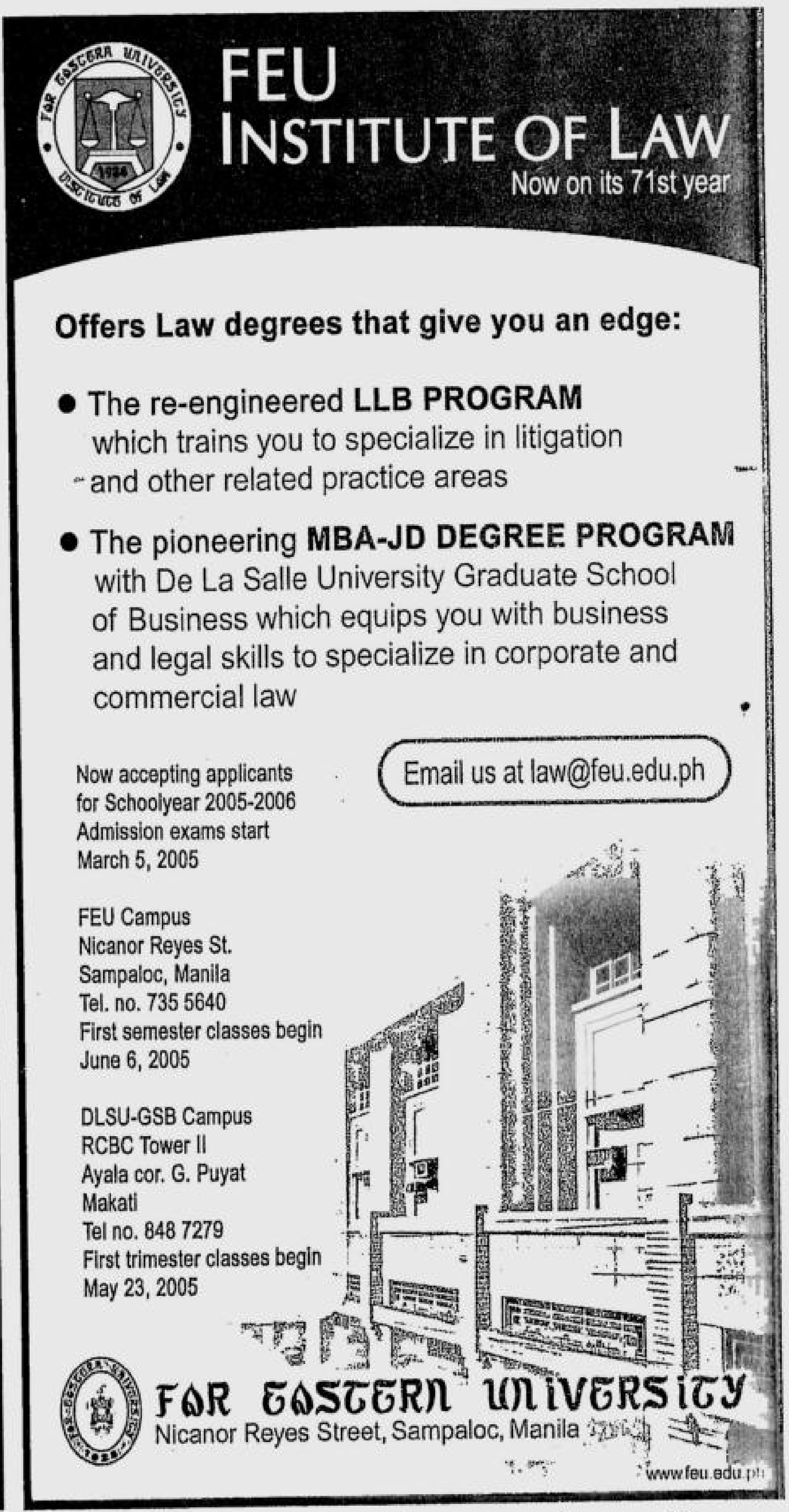

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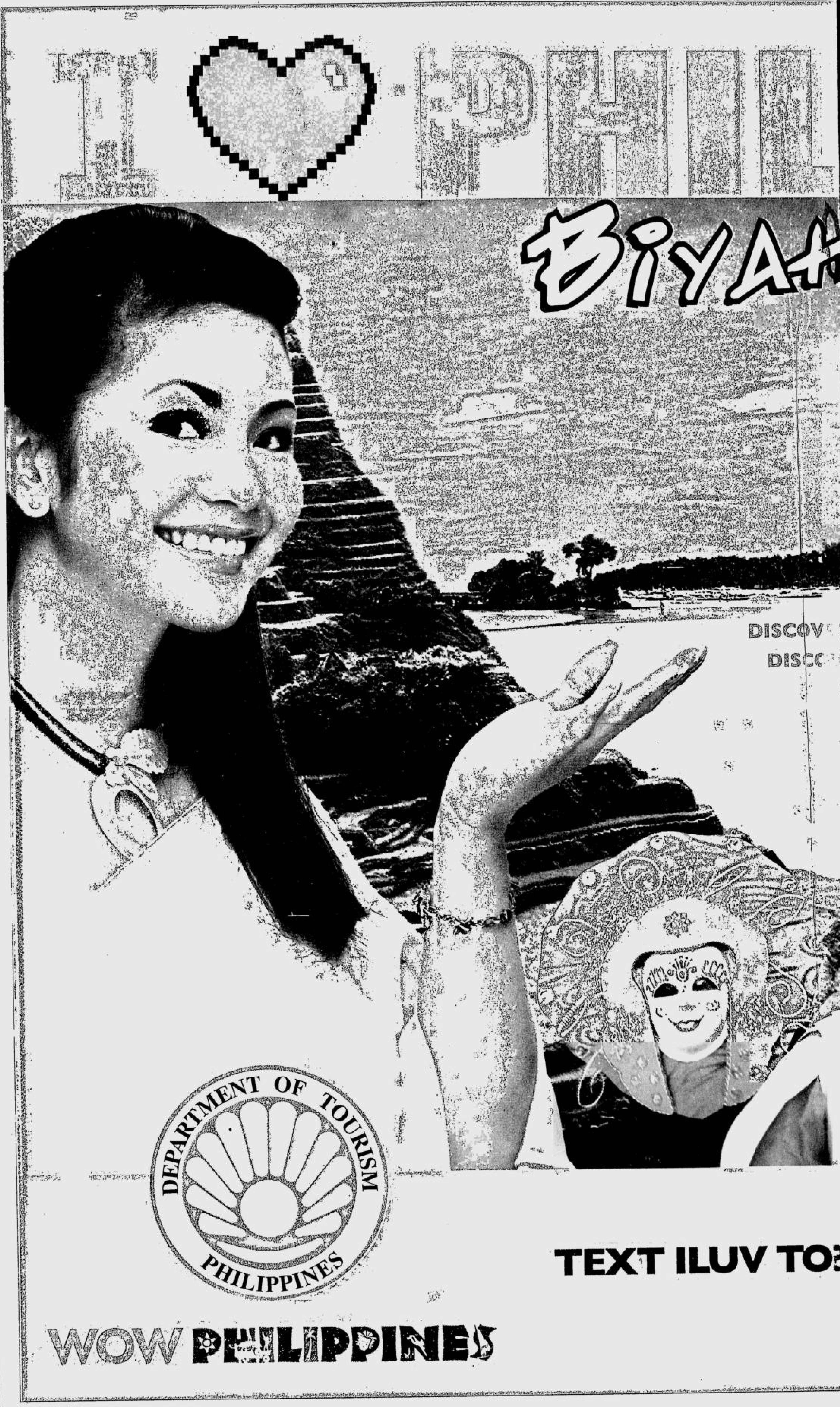
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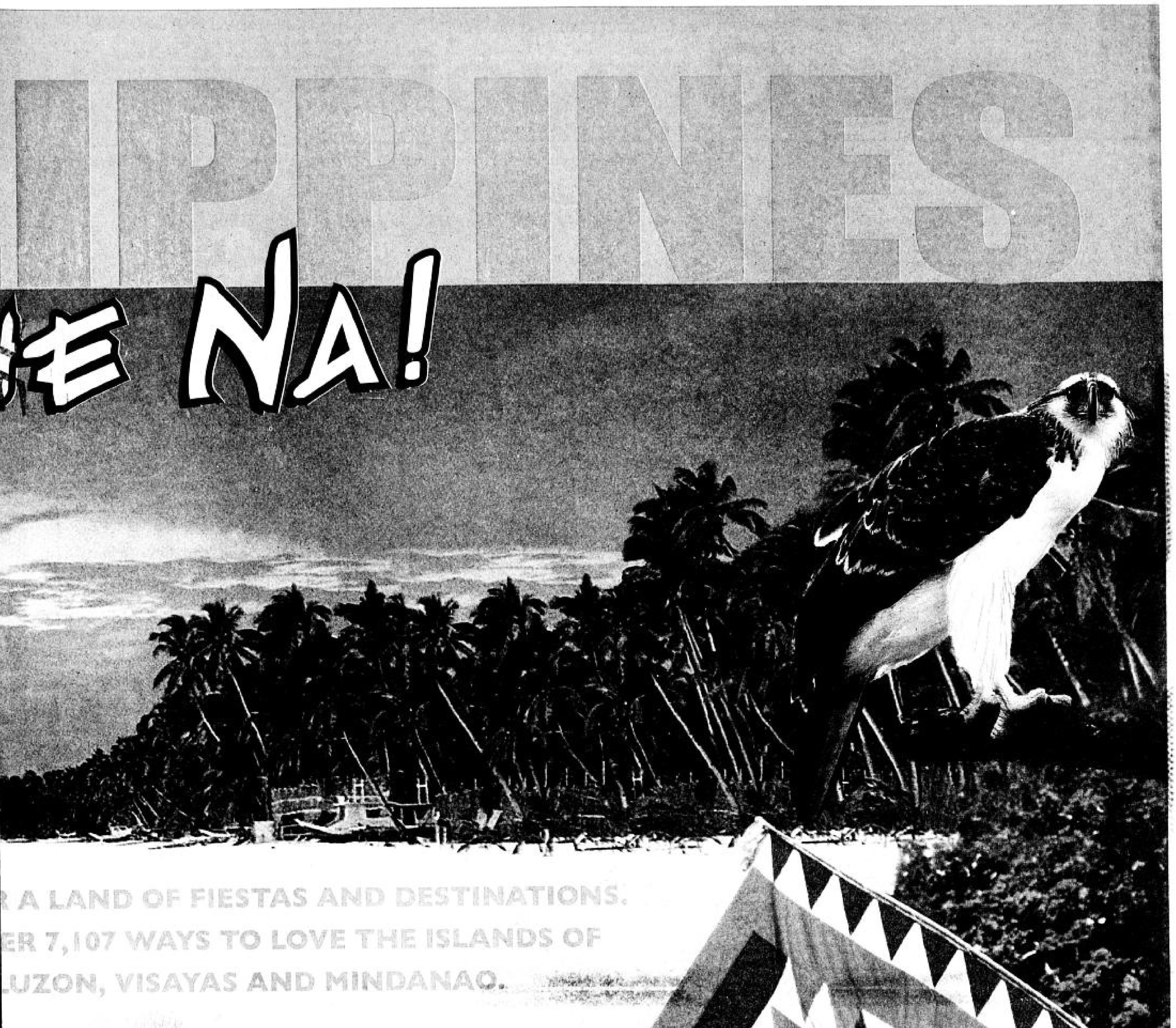
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Dead letter

EDITORIAL

WHEN the Kyoto Protocol was first signed, it was met with joy and excitement throughout the world. The 1997 agreement pledged its signatory countries to implementing programs against global warming. With the world weather patterns increasingly reminding the world that global warming is a real phenomenon, the wisdom of the global effort that resulted in the Kyoto agreement has been validated.

However, the United States, the largest energy consumer in the world, which accounts for a significant percentage of the planet's greenhouse gases, withdrew from the Kyoto Protocol during George W. Bush's first term. The decision of the American Republican administration was met with outrage throughout the world: not least because previous (Democratic) American administrations had been at the forefront of the lobbying for the agreement.

The Kyoto accord establishes, as global policy, the directive that the use of fossil fuels should be accompanied by strict emission standards and by a serious effort to develop more fuel-efficient technologies, as well as energy substitutes that reduce greenhouse gases. Obviously such policies endanger the healthy profits of oil companies, car manufacturers and electricity producers, all of which were significant contributors to the Bush campaign.

It is, therefore, no exaggeration to say that the official American about-face with regard to Kyoto was a matter of business. Long ago, an American president, Calvin Coolidge, said "America's business is business." Just as the American obsession with business interests and its inherent tendency to be isolationist torpedoed America's participation in the League of Nations (the post-World War I precursor to the United Nations) in the 1920s, so too does the withdrawal of Republican support from the Kyoto accord and the International Criminal Court show that American idealism tends to play second fiddle to American profiteering.

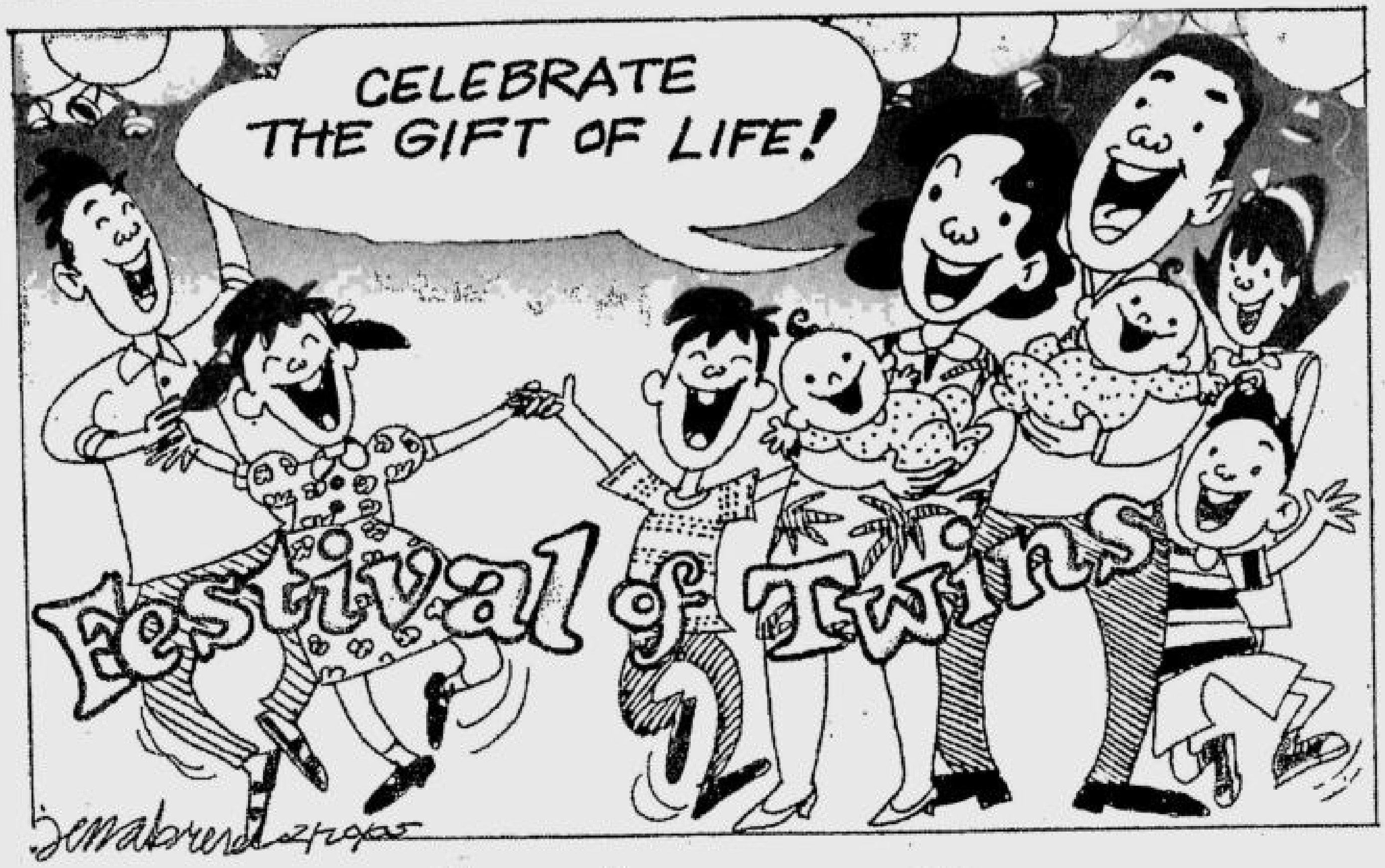
It's been said that America's turning its back on the League of Nations led to the unchallenged rise of fascism. America's ambivalence toward the UN after World War II has also led to an uneven American engagement with the global community. There is an American saying: "All politics is local." And the Bush administration's turning its back on two immensely important global agreements, the Kyoto Protocol and the International Criminal Court, shows as much.

The world community, faced with what could have been a catastrophic American withdrawal from the Kyoto agreement, decided to go on without the United States. It helped that emerging global economic and military powers, such as the People's Republic of China, saw that environmental protection cannot be separated from sustainable economic growth. The European Union, Japan and the emerging powers—such as India, China and Brazil— continue to be dedicated to the spirit of the Kyoto agreement. So does the Philippines, which has been feeling, deeply and painfully, the price of environmental mismanagement.

Energy Secretary Vince Perez hailed the most recent accession to the Kyoto Protocol by the Russian Federation. He recently announced new government initiatives seeking clean indigenous energy resources, and he said the government is keen on the development and commercial utilization of renewable energy. These government programs aim to promote clean alternative transport fuels and to enhance energy efficiency as well as conservation efforts to ensure sustainable energy development in the country.

On the surface at least, the country is on the right track. While it took five years (from 1998 to 2003) for our country to ratify the Kyoto accord, the fact is we did. As did so many other nations. This only goes to show that the tantalizing possibility of America increasingly getting left behind by the combined efforts of other countries may be upon us.

It may be a passing era when the United States could call the shots virtually at will in the global scene. America is powerful, but rivals are rising to the fore. America will be a crucial world player for generations to come; but it must increasingly adopt to the possibility of its remaining to be an important power bloc, but just one of many. Be that as it may, it's good to see that our country remains where it does best: not simply following the American Pied Piper, but discovering there is wisdom and strength in collective global engagement.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Cleansing our courts

Separate Opinion

Isagani A. Cruz

LIKE a welcome gust of fresh wind was the report from Justice Artemio V. Panganiban that the Supreme Court disciplined last year 56 "hoodlums in robes," in Erap's colorful phrase, for various offenses. He added that as many as 582 judges have been penalized for unethical conduct by the high tribunal since the reorganization of the judiciary in 1986 following Edna 1.

The erring judges, most of them from the lower courts, have been disciplined for violation of the Canons of Judicial Ethics and the New Code of Judicial Conduct for the Philippine Judiciary. The charges against them ranged from dishonesty, bias, ignorance of the law, neglect of duty, grave abuse of discretion, immorality, unbecoming behavior, and other improprieties.

The disciplinary power of the Supreme Court has not been exercised only over the inferior courts, as erroneously believed. Even the superior collegiate courts have not been spared. I recall that a justice of the Court of Appeals was dismissed a year or so ago for "lawyering" for a litigant, and another from the Sandiganbayan was practically required to retire because of his inexcusable delay in deciding many of the cases assigned to him.

Regrettably, both of them were professionally and academically competent, in fact superiorly so, and were otherwise a credit to the judiciary. Without their proven shortcomings, they could even have been in time elevated to the Supreme Court.

During my tenure on the Court, we dismissed two RTC judges who were among the first 10 topnotchers in their respective bar examinations. One rendered a premature decision in favor of an influential defendant; the other, reinstated after having been earlier disbarred, tempted fate once more by tearing from the *rollo* of a case important documentary evidence in the presence of the clerk of court.

The Supreme Court has itself not been immunized from its drive for reform. In 2002, one of its members was castigated by his colleagues for his negligence in supervising the bar examinations and was denied a portion of his fee as chairman of the examining committee. Many people thought the punishment inadequate, though, including the Association of Retired Justices of the Supreme Court which did not invite him to be a member.

When in 1997 I wrote a brief history of the Supreme Court upon invitation of the Philippine Judiciary Academy, I discussed in my *Res Gestae*, as I called the work, some serious criticisms of the high tribunal, including the sitting one. Upon reading my draft, it sent me a paper entitled "Suggestions of Individual Members of the Court" who, however, did not choose to identify themselves. They "suggested" that I moderate my language, but I rejected their censorship. I was not going to understate a problem that was known to the whole country.

The book was published by a commercial printer and has long been sold out. But the problem the unnamed "individual justices" wanted to suppress is still with us. Justice Panganiban's report is encouraging, but it is so only because it assures us that the Supreme Court is not slumbering on the complaints against the judiciary. The problem cannot be deemed solved with the discipline of 582 judges since 1986, which may be a notable achievement but is certainly not enough.

The number alone is not even impressive because it translates to only some 30 erring judges a year who have been uncovered and penalized, some only mildly with nominal fines and censure. In light of the common dissatisfaction of lawyers, litigants, and the people in general with our courts of justice, that number is only the tip of the iceberg.

This is truly sad because the majority of our judges, from the lowest to the highest tribunal, are honest and able disciples of the law dedicated to uphold it in the temple of justice. If their decisions have not always been wise or even correct, it is because of their human failings or lack of discernment in discovering the truth. These are imperfections many of us share. It should not justify the blanket condemnation of the judiciary as a shadowy hideaway of robed robbers.

If we want to truly cleanse the judiciary, we should cooperate with the Supreme Court in its efforts to erase the suspicion of its supposed incompetence and questionable integrity. It is a problem we all share. If you have complaints against any judge or justice, or any judicial officer, send them to the high tribunal, which will investigate them, with the assistance of the NBI if warranted. We can lick this problem if we all work together.

Let me repeat, however, what I said when I retired from the Court in 1994:

"Smug conclusions not backed by proven facts or at least an attempt in good faith to verify them militate against the principle that one must be given a chance to air his side before the verdict is pronounced. That is the essence of fair play. It should not be difficult to imagine that unfounded accusations will undermine the faith of the people in the judiciary as the ultimate protector of their rights and liberties. If that faith is lost, the only remaining alternative to judicial action will be private retribution under the *lex talionis* or the arbitrary adjudication of the mob."

Encountering God

Moments

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

QUESTION: Why do mountain climbers rope themselves together?

Answer: To prevent the sensible ones from going home.

* * *

The Transfiguration (Mt. 17:1-9) was Jesus' way of "roping together" the disciples Peter, James and John with Himself. The experience of seeing His face shine like the sun, and His clothes become white as light was for the disciples a peak experience that helped strengthen their belief in Him. It was also the occasion for the Father to give witness to Jesus' divinity: "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him."

* * *

Like the disciples, we all need a religious experience, an intimate encounter with the divine to help us on, especially when we go through dark valleys. Have you had a religious experience, a moment when God became so real in your life? If you've had, thank God, and keep going back to it. If you haven't, maybe you haven't been listening enough; or, maybe, you didn't give it much of a value or importance. Do you value, do you cherish, do you appreciate God and your experience of God?

* * *

It is hard to describe a religious experience. In fact, words can't describe it and can even just put a cloud over it. But he/she who has gone through one knows in his/her heart that something qualitatively new and wonderful has happened in his/her life. Though beyond words, a religious experience becomes manifest in the subsequent changes in a person's life. There is a "honeymoon period," wherein a person becomes more loving, more prayerful and literally more in love with God. It is a time, too, when the devil becomes more busy in a person's life. Temptations and trials can intensify, but the memory of the religious experience can help a person go on to become a better and stronger disciple of Christ. The closer we come to God, the more we will be tempted and tried.

* * *

Remember that story of the dog that saw a rabbit? As the dog pursues the rabbit, many other dogs join in the chase, barking with passion. But soon after, when they experience fatigue, they drop out one by one, except the dog that saw the rabbit. He continues the pursuit and perseveres because he has seen the rabbit. A religious experience is something like that. Once a person has experienced God, he/she will never be the same again. But without a religious experience, a person could end up with cold religion, empty rituals and practices, and legalistic dogma.

* * *

The problem with many so-called religious leaders without a real experience with God is that, they don't have passion. They muffle the agenda of the Holy Spirit with their own worldly agenda of fame, riches and self-glorification. Worse are those who do not have passion and compassion as well, so full of greed, arrogance and pride. We need religious leaders who specialize in passion, not fashion; compassion, not computation.

* * *

Meeting Bishop Camilo Gregorio in Batanes was some sort of a "transfiguration moment" for me. I was so edified with his warmth, sincere hospitality and austere living. He invited me and Fr. John O'Mahony, SVD to his simple house—we were fetched with his simple car—to a simple dinner. Here was a man who did not mind serving his guests, taking the picture of the group, and even capping the night with his music on the piano. "*Servire in caritate*" (Serve in love) is his Episcopal motto. I think it's his way of life.

* * *

A "sermon on the mount" sort of moment occurred in our Mass by the shores of Mahatao, Batanes during our first pilgrimage trip last Jan. 26 to 28. The sound system conked out. To remedy the situation, I used the "*bulong*" (whispering) system during the homily. I "preached" to the 500 or so people gathered for the Mass by whispering a message to two people, with the instruction that they pass it on and tell the others to do with it likewise. It worked! All the people actually heard, passed on and remembered more clearly the message whispered unto them, and by them. Truth does not need to be loud. In fact, truth needs only to be whispered from the heart in order to be heard.

* * *

It is interesting to note that the Ivatans of today still catch fish just for the day. It is their way of being kind to nature. Anything extra is usually shared with others. Isn't that what we pray for in the Our Father when we say "Give us this day our daily bread"? You who tend to hoard and to stock up in greed, be reminded of the spirit of giving and sharing.

* * *

Instead of saying "*tao po*" when knocking at doors, the Ivatans say "Dios" to announce their presence. Isn't that a wonderful reminder that it is God who is present in every person? It is God who comes knocking at our door to visit us, or to ask for our help. May we become more aware of God's presence in our midst and may we make him more present in our midst. May we, who have encountered God, in turn make Him present in others because they encountered us.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, because I have encountered you, may others encounter you in me also. Amen.

* * *

E-mail: jorbos@manila-online.net

Civilian authority, not supremacy

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

ALMOST a month ago, I mentioned that the Philippine Military Academy Alumni Association (PMAAA) held its annual general membership meeting with a man of the cloth, Fr. Joaquin Bernas, S.J. as its guest speaker. In the past, this honor was usually reserved for the commander in chief, the secretary of national defense or some high-ranking military officer. During the martial law years, it was always President Ferdinand Marcos who addressed the alumni and after a while, there was nothing particularly new or stimulating about the speeches of the day. He was also the only graduation speaker for the cadets and to this day, the practice has continued.

Incidentally, when I graduated from the Academy in 1956, House Speaker Jose B. Laurel was our commencement speaker.

Some folks may argue that the commander in chief makes for the most appropriate commencement speaker for a service academy graduation. This may not always be the case. In May 1993, US senator John McCain, a Vietnam War hero who graduated fifth from the bottom of his Annapolis Class of 1958, delivered the commencement address at the US Naval Academy. At that time, President Bill Clinton was the commander in chief.

We need to keep our minds open especially when circumstances call for new and fresh ideas from different perspectives. It is in this light that I congratulate the directors of the PMAAA, and I thank them for their choice of Father Bernas as the guest speaker for the alumni meeting.

In his address as befits his role as an expert on constitutional law, Bernas put to rest the fallacy of "civilian supremacy over the military." Too often, we hear people throwing around this phrase "civilian supremacy over the military," as if to stress some kind of superiority by one group over the other.

The Constitution provides that, "Civilian authority is, at all times, supreme over the military. The Armed Forces of the Philippines is the protector of the people and the State. Its goal is to secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory."

Bernas divided the provision into two parts—the first part, consisting of the first sentence, as the "civilian authority clause"; the second part, consisting of the second sentence, as the "mark of sovereignty clause."

He began with the first part because "I think that it is often misunderstood. And when it is misunderstood by high-ranking civilians, things can get messy. You will note that it speaks not of 'civilian supremacy' but of 'civilian authority.' That is important, because in our constitutional system, authority can only come from law. The rule of law means that no official, whether civilian or military, can claim any power that has not been given to him or her by law. Much less can he or she claim power that runs contrary to law." He summed it up by saying that civilian authority is nothing more than supremacy of law. From the viewpoint of this non-lawyer, perhaps a better line for the "civilian authority clause" should read: "The rule of law is supreme over civilian or military authority."

Going to the second part, the "mark of sovereignty clause," Bernas emphasizes its positive aspects. For him, it singles out the military as the guardian of our people and our territorial integrity and therefore "ultimately, of the majesty of the law." He quotes Gen. Douglas MacArthur: "We of the military shall always do what we are told to do. But if this nation is to survive, we must trust the soldier once our statesmen fail to preserve the peace."

* * *

Father Bernas then talked about professionalism, breaking it down into two components. The first is technical expertise. He said that one cannot be considered a professional soldier unless "he has learned the art of war and of arms, unless he has learned how to command and how to obey, unless he has learned the intricacies of civilian-military relations. And in an age of interdisciplinary needs where a soldier is often called upon to do civilian work in building society, a soldier must also learn more than what is needed to win in battle. It is to the credit of the Philippine Military Academy that its graduates are also highly capable of becoming civil servants."

The other half of professionalism is "an intangible value which is not easily defined. We call it character. Technical expertise joined with character makes for professionalism. Technical expertise without character can result in a monster."

He then posed several questions. How do you build character? How do you sustain character once the individual is thrown into the real world of power, politics and privilege? Ever so delicately, he suggests that PMA graduates are currently grappling with the problem of "not just building character but also of sustaining character."

What can be done about it? Bernas says that there are no easy and much less guaranteed answers. "But in my experience, there is no better instrument for the formation and sustaining of character than the power of example, especially of example from those who have achieved notable success. Thus, living an exemplary life is a responsibility of all, but especially of those who have attained seniority."

* * *

My own commander in chief is calling on all alumni of St. Theresa's College Manila to gather once again for their annual general reunion on Saturday Feb. 26 at the Shangrila Makati. The theme for this year is: "Phoenix Rising...the Legacy Continues." In other words, bring out your checkbooks if you wish to see a restored STC Manila. Bishop Soc Villegas starts off the evening with Mass at 5 p.m.

What's at stake in Japan?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE PHILIPPINE government now finds itself in the most embarrassing position of backtracking on an advocacy that it has championed globally and even petitioned other countries to address seriously.

The issue is trafficking in human beings, particularly of women and children for purposes of prostitution, and it has indeed become a serious problem because of the thousands of women and girls who are lured to leave their homes on the promise of finding gainful work abroad, only to end up ensnared in forced prostitution, also known as "white slavery." (Why? Because it's a "cleaner" form of slavery? Not from the women's point of view, I bet.)

A position paper prepared by 10 organizations working with migrant women workers says that while the issue of trafficking has been around for decades, only since the 1990s has it received "high visibility and action on the part of the international community." As a result of persistent NGO advocacy from women's and migrants' groups, human trafficking is now "universally condemned and criminalized." The Philippine government has readily embraced this cause, promoting resolutions addressing the global trafficking of women and girls in the United Nations since 1994. It also actively supported and promoted the adoption of the UN Optional Protocol on Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children. In 2003, the Philippine Congress passed the "historic" law against human trafficking, after years of advocacy by women's groups. This law has since been hailed by other governments as one of the "most comprehensive and progressive" laws addressing the issue of trafficking.

So why do I say that the government is now backtracking from this advocacy and embarrassing itself in the eyes of the world?

* * *

THE JOINT position paper, sponsored by the Development Action for Women Network, BATIS Center for Women, BATIS-AWARE, Center for Migrants Advocacy, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women-Asia Pacific, Kanlungan Center Foundation, Scalabrini Migration Center, Third World Movement Against the Exploitation of Women, WomenLead and Philippine Migrant Rights Watch (PMRW), traces the background behind the recent move of the Japanese government limiting the granting of working visas in Japan to entertainers who have received at least two years' training outside Japan or in foreign institutions. This move has received widespread criticism not just from entertainers, recruiters and talent managers, but even from other migrant groups and some Filipino officials.

Since 1995, says the paper, the international community has stepped up its efforts and policies to curtail trafficking around the world. The European Community passed its own policies, while the United States, Thailand and the Philippines enacted their own anti-trafficking laws. South Asian countries, on the other hand, sought to address cross-border trafficking through the SAARC Convention.

As one of the prime "receiving" countries of migrant women, most of them entertainers, Japan "found itself being criticized for not doing enough to address trafficking in its own territory." Two years ago, the Japanese government began consulting NGOs and government agencies in other countries, including the Philippines, on what it could do to institute stronger measures against trafficking. "An Interagency Coordination Mechanism on Trafficking in Persons was created in April 2004. Subsequently, in September 2004, official missions were dispatched to the Philippines, Thailand and Colombia to consult and inform the governments of the action plan to be implemented by Japan," the position paper states.

Say the organizations: "Though these actions came a bit too late, we affirm that these are steps in the right direction."

* * *

EVEN as Japan sent signals that it would soon begin cracking down on the illicit trafficking business, in the Philippines, say the migrant organizations, several consultations on the problems and issues of overseas performing artists were taking place among government, NGO's and civil society. "However," it adds, "it seems that the Philippine government itself had not seriously taken steps to prepare a contingency plan in the event of possible policy changes from Japan."

How much is at stake in this new Japanese policy on the migration of foreign entertainers to their shores?

Financially, we're talking hundreds of millions of pesos in remittances. Nearly 300,000 Filipinos, the vast majority of them women entertainers at bars and nightspots, currently work in Japan. Filipino officials estimate that up to 77,000 of them entered the country illegally.

But is money the only consideration in this situation? What about the welfare and safety of the women and their children? What about that elusive thing called national dignity?

* * *

THIS is what the position paper has to say of the situation of our women "artists" in Japan:

"Trafficking of women and children in Japan has almost always been associated with the entertainment/sex industries which are heavily controlled by syndicates like the Yakuza. The studies show a pattern of sexual and labor exploitation without recourse to legal remedies from the Japanese government which previously had no legal standards on trafficking cases. Various methods and degrees of coercion and control are employed to compel women even with legal papers to give in to the sexual advances of customers even in legally operating bars and entertainment establishments. In the worst of cases, women are virtually imprisoned, enslaved and subjected to the most horrendous violations."

Is this the sort of regime we wish to continue, even if only for five years?

A Moro homeland

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

FINISH them off, or give them back their land. Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile may have uttered this sentiment in exasperation over the Arroyo government's lack of a clear policy on Mindanao. But he should know Mindanao, having played a key role in the Marcos regime's handling of its problems. He also has business interests in the place. What does he really have in mind?

He cannot possibly seriously think that a total war against the Moro rebels can succeed. Thirty-one years have passed since the Marcos military burned down Jolo, but the resentments generated by that single atrocity continue to simmer to this day. As the recent events in Sulu have shown, there is no way the military can hunt down and kill remnants of the notorious Abu Sayyaf group without hurting other members of the communities in which they seek refuge. Most of these rebels are not full-time fighters. It is not easy to tell a rebel from an ordinary resident. The possession of firearms is not a distinguishing mark of a rebel because nearly every male adult in this place owns one.

Moreover, names like "Misuari Breakaway Group," "Jemaah Islamiyah" and "al-Qaida," are labels used by outsiders like the Philippine military and US agents. Just because the government and foreign forces use them to identify the enemy does not mean that these terms of affiliation have any meaning for the local people. The "enemy" that the government is pursuing, whether Abu Sayyaf or MNLF-Misuari loyalist, is a human being with a proper name. He belongs to a family and a kin group. He is a member of a community; he goes to a mosque and prays among other members of his faith. You cannot kill this enemy, especially one who fights in the name of his people, without making enemies of the rest of his relatives and community.

As important, the Moro people—the Muslims, the Lumad, and, indeed, Christians who identify with the aspirations of a Bangsa Moro homeland—may be a minority both in relation to the total Mindanao population and the Philippine population. They may be concentrated in four or five Muslim-dominated provinces in Mindanao. But the reality is that they are also now everywhere in the country.

The war and its insidious cousin—land-grabbing—have forced them out of their homeland. Now they are in Metro Manila, in Baguio, in Central Luzon, and, practically, in every major urban center of the archipelago. They sell pearls, pirated DVDs, and smuggled goods. Forced by circumstances unique to displaced people, they inhabit the lower rungs of the informal economy. Their assimilation into the mainstream is skin-deep; they remain a separate people, steeled by their faith, and bound together by a shared dream to regain their homeland.

That they are currently uprooted from their homeland does not mean they have stopped being Moros. The man who sells DVDs in Quiapo or pearls in Greenhills may be far from the war, but he is not psychologically distant from its horror. It is naïve to think that he no longer cares what happens in Panamao, Patikul, or Parang. He may not himself plant a bomb in a bus full of innocent people to express his outrage; but maybe, whether he knows it or not, he is sheltering someone who would. Anyone who thinks it is possible to confine the hostilities to the remote villages of Sulu and win a decisive victory there, without provoking retaliation elsewhere, betrays a cockeyed view of the world.

The new American vocabulary of global anti-terrorism is a paradigm of such a stilted view of reality. It may give us what seems like an informed way of looking at world events, but it will not shield us from the horrific consequences it creates or makes possible. When a bomb is dropped on a community in Sulu, we call it a military operation. But when a bomb is exploded in Metro Manila, we call it a terrorist attack. That is not the way a Moro militant would view it. Both events, to him, are integral aspects of the same war.

And yet, by calling these isolated attacks on civilian targets the handiwork of the Jemaah Islamiyah or of elements linked to the al-Qaida, we draw attention away from their basic local roots. We confer upon them a global conspiratorial character they do not possess. I do not condone terrorism of any kind. But this semantic arrogance not only blinds us to the real sufferings of people at the receiving end of state aggression, it also induces in us a moral smugness that justifies simplistic solutions to human problems.

But we have earned a minor place in the US-led war on terrorism—a role that compels us to give up a part of our rights as a nation in exchange for military and economic assistance. We have brought American forces right into the door of the Mindanao conflict, in total violation of the letter and spirit of the 1987 Constitution.

The Mindanao conflict is complex enough as it is without having to locate it in the American world map of global terrorism. Its roots go back to the unsuccessful wars of pacification under the Spanish and American colonial regimes. The new Philippine Republic rode on the inertia of these colonial expeditions. It spread its rule, its settlers and carpetbaggers, all over Mindanao, completely ignoring the ancestral domains of the native peoples and the sovereign rights of the sultanates that had administered these territories since pre-colonial times.

Land is what the Moros lost, and a homeland is what they hope to recover. Everything else—Misuari, Salamat, the MNLF, the MILF, the Abu Sayyaf—is but a footnote in a just struggle that will never be resolved by war.

* * *

Comments to davidinquirer@yahoo.com

A woman president for modern Chile?

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

VALPARAISO, Chile—The joke about Chile is that you have to walk sideways to go through it. This is a reference to the country's narrow ribbon-like geography facing 5,000 miles of the Pacific Ocean, on one side, and the snow-capped Andes mountains, on the other.

Here again, as in Peru and Bolivia, you see parallels with Philippine history in earlier times. Fernando de Magallanes, better known as Ferdinand Magellan, a Portuguese explorer in the service of Spain, embarked on a journey westward in 1520 to the "Spice Islands of Asia," crossing part of the ocean that now bears his name—the Straits of Magellan. He and his men crossed the Pacific through a previously unknown route.

Two of Magellan's fellow conquistadors—Hernando Cortes and Francisco Pizarro—later proceeded to the South American continent invading vast territories. They plundered and pillaged the two most established civilizations at the time—the Aztec empire of Mexico and the Inca empire of Peru.

A lesser conquistador, Pedro de Valdivia, took over what is now present-day Chile. The indigenous tribes were forced into embracing Christianity. Next to Argentina, Chile is the most "cosmopolitan" country in South America in terms of character and culture, due in large part to the influx of European immigrants in the 19th century. This "Europeanization" accelerated in turn the growth of a middle class of industrialists, artists, engineers, doctors, politicians and other professionals.

It's no surprise then that Chile has produced two of the most important writers in the South American continent, both of whom received the prestigious Nobel Prize for Literature. Gabriela Mistral, whose likeness is on Chilean currency, was the pseudonym of a former schoolteacher named Lucila Godoy. The other Nobel Laureate was Pablo Neruda, whose real name was Neftali Reyes. Exiled from Chile for being a communist, he later returned to his country and was awarded the Nobel Prize. As I write this, we are approaching Neruda's "vertical house" in Valparaiso, which has a majestic view of the Pacific Ocean.

Chile's professionals have been prominent in politics as well. The big speculation these days is the possibility of the country's electing its first woman president in 2005. And two women politicians are in the forefront.

Writing for Reuters, reporter Paulina Modiano profiles these two women: Foreign Minister Soledad Alvear and Defense Minister Michelle Bachelet. Their Cabinet positions should indicate how "powerful" these two women are in current Chile politics. Both belong to the ruling center-left coalition led by President Ricardo Lagos.

The trouble is both women had to resign their positions because the country's Constitution mandates that Cabinet Ministers who want to run for president have to leave their posts one year before the election.

President Lagos explained that he let go of the two women ministers because "opposition attacks against them have made it hard for them to do their jobs." The right-wing opposition is headed by Joaquin Lavin, who narrowly lost to Lagos in the 2000 presidential election. Lavin will certainly run again, this time against either Alvear or Bachelet. Lagos cannot run for re-election under the law. And, according to Modiano's report, Lagos' four-party coalition is "wilting," because of a "string of minor corruption scandals and a perception it has run out of fresh ideas."

But who are Alvear and Bachelet?

Both women are widely respected in their respective parties in the coalition. Reuters interviewed many voters and concludes that Alvear's and Bachelet's candidacies "represent a potentially exciting new option for voters in a macho-thinking, conservative country that just this year made divorce legal." Let me stress that last point: Chile has now legalized divorce.

One voter, Leonor Moreno, a nanny, says, "They're [voters] calling them the power-puff girls." She was impressed with Alvear's recent TV interview in which she seemed relaxed, compared with her occasional "stiff" personality.

Alvear is a lawyer and is a Christian Democrat. She has much experience to boot, having held Cabinet positions in three different center-left coalition administrations. As her country's top diplomat, she has distinguished herself in negotiating free trade agreements with several countries including the United States, the European Union and South Korea.

Her supporters argue that Alvear is better suited to be president because she represents continuity, due mainly to her ability to attract undecided voters in the political center. "I've always been convinced that Soledad Alvear has a much better chance because it's not just about beating Lavin, but it's about governing the country," says a senator from her party.

Bachelet, on the other hand, has overtaken Alvear in the polls. This could be because Bachelet is widely seen as "a symbol of Chile's transition to democracy." She is a Socialist who was imprisoned and tortured by the Pinochet regime. Her father was likewise tortured and he died as a result. He was an Air Force general who opposed Pinochet's 1973 coup which toppled the civilian presidency of Salvador Allende.

Bachelet is a medical doctor who has studied "military strategy." In her two years as defense minister, she claims she has built bridges between the civilian government and the post-Pinochet military establishment. The military has been divided following Pinochet's coup and the ensuing abuses of the regime.

"Since I started my job at the defense ministry," she says in her Reuters interview, "one of the big tasks has been to bring together the civilian world and the military world. I've always tried my best to push in that direction, and I believe that ... we are now clearly advancing in that direction and I'm satisfied with that."

I can't help thinking about the Philippines, a country that has produced two female presidents and several women presidential wannabes. I am truly impressed by this "feminist" touch to current political leadership in Chile. Their ruling coalition has a tough decision to make. But if there's just the two of them in the "short list," feminist politics has already won. Because whoever wins is a woman.

Meanwhile, the bitter Pinochet legacy still rankles. Ailing at age 88, he has managed to elude several attempts to try him for his regime's human rights atrocities. The families of his victims continue to demonstrate publicly, demanding justice. President Lagos is expected to release a gruesome report on torture during Pinochet's regime.

But on the electoral scene, the country seems excited about the prospect of having its first woman president in the near future. Both women are truly interesting and formidable. It's in the voters' hands to make a decision of destiny in Chile's contemporary history.

Belinda A. Aquino is on sabbatical leave from her post as professor of Political Science and Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she is also director of the Center for Philippine Studies.

'Learning by doing' could revolutionize RP education

From page A1

Classrooms at CVI reflect the school's severe financial straits. Tables and chairs have clearly seen better days, back when Jose Abueva, former University of the Philippines president and emeritus professor, was a student. The main building, a reincarnation of a 1930s movie house, is rickety. Nonetheless, the ravages of time cannot hide the aura of dignity. There are no signs of habitual neglect. Nor are there graffiti. But nobody comes to CVI for its physical appearance.

The shelves at the back of each room are nondescript, but few in Ateneo or Poveda bear as precious a cargo—stacks of color-coded plastic-covered portfolios of the students. The folios contain accomplished activity sheets of each student in each course. These include exercise, concept, laboratory and exam sheets, all neatly accomplished in the student's own handwriting or illustration. And all done within the school.

Short lectures

For homework is anathema at CVI. This is the first adjustment to *kawad-on* (abject poverty), which is a sibling to most CVI students. Most of them hail from far-flung homes neither provided with plumbing nor electricity. "Schoolwork you do in school. Homework is helping your parents," is the unsubtle advice.

Because "homework," so-called, is done in school, lectures have to be pithy, just the basic concepts and some examples—20 minutes at most. Prepared exercises or student activity sheets are handed out. Students then get busy—they discuss concepts and attempt to solve or build, confer, search singly at first and then together, and when stumped, address questions to the expert teacher. More discussion. Work sheets are evaluated and go into each student's portfolio for the course.

The DLP, in effect, de-emphasizes "learning by listening," and expands "learning by doing." The latter, done within a group, dons the mantle of "play," a pseudo-play, if you will. This turns the current pedagogy on its head where schoolwork is "learning by listening" and homework is "learning by doing"—both done in isolation. Learning becomes a lonely, artificial and eventually a disdained exercise. Children everywhere love play; play is mostly with peers, and learning in groups can be play. At CVI, it is.

This strategy hinges on trust. A short discussion of the concepts can motivate kids to take off and explore for the next 40 minutes. How about short attention span? How about the unruliness that follows? Only actual program runs can decide these issues. As the outcome shows, the trust appears well-placed. Students begin to view school learning as play and respond with the rapt attention of card players. Naturally, there are exceptions and those are dealt with first with remedial effort and, if it fails, a pink slip.

Another interesting advantage: DLP reduces the distinction between exam days and class days.

Optimizing the teacher

In every pedagogic program, the teacher is central. The current pedagogic practice confronts the teacher only with students, with the review process, if at all, coming few and far between. This structure easily succumbs to that sneaky classroom bargain: teacher does not teach, students do not learn, teacher gives high grades, students shut their mouths and move on. Worse, predatory and abusive behavior by teachers may thrive in non-transparent environments.

The DLP reduces such Faustian bargains. (1) All sections of a year take Mathematics simultaneously in one enlarged (dividers folded in) room. (2) The 20-minute or so initial lecture segment is not repeated three times. Instead, the math teacher spends 40 minutes more every day fielding questions. (3) The questions are also more profound because they derive from actual problem-solving instances. (4) The teachers of the other subjects become facilitators of the Mathematics course, imposing discipline and fielding no questions in Math.

Socratic method

The math teacher faces a mini-faculty meeting daily. The DLP is, by design, question-and-answer-intensive ("Socratic"). She cannot, as happens in too many classes across the nation, be absent while being present in front of peers. The best pedagogic practice easily spreads.

Other advantages: (1) It is much easier for the principal to monitor the proceedings as all subjects are in one enlarged room. (2) When teachers are poorly prepared, less is clearly better than abundant nonsense. (3) All the other teachers, say of English or History, hear and presumably absorb the big ideas of the other disciplines such as Einstein's theory of relativity in Physics or Darwin's natural selection in Biology. There is more to interact over in the faculty room than the identity of "Jose Pidal." Math and science mentors also learn John Donne's "Send not to know for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee."

The DLP is a hot learning cauldron for both students and teachers.

Where's the beef?

Carol Porio, executive director of FAPE, has seen many pedagogical programs arrive with a bang and slink away with a whimper. She is a formidable skeptic. "Where's the result?" is her favorite rapier. Which is why she is profoundly intrigued by CVI. The results are plain to see. How do they come about? Enthused Eve Orbeta of the St. Bonaventure Center of Excellence, "The moment I walked into that school, I knew they had a different culture."

Just run through the stacks of student portfolios at the back of the room. Pick one up randomly from the Physics stack. Leaf through. One meets a neat, colored rendition of the Bohr atom and a brief essay on why electrons don't collapse into the nucleus. The romance with learning is palpable. The four graduates in 2003 and the five in 2004 who qualified for the University of the Philippines (UP) seem to suggest a program that works. These are not yet conclusive, according to the Bernidos. CVI's UP College Admission Test (UPCAT) performance will, however, only improve if UPCAT gives Mathematics and Science a higher weight than the puny 10 percent it gives today.

No report can convey the full compass and drama of the learning outcomes mirrored by the portfolios. Comparable outcomes from elite schools charging P80,000 in tuition a year have yet to be seen. CVI charges an all-inclusive P3,700 a year.

CVI students queue up at a workshop registration table.

Pilgrimage to Jagna, Bohol

- On Aug. 11, 2004, a group headed by former UP President Emil Javier of the National Academy of Science and Technology came calling and left very impressed.
- On Oct. 18, 2004, the faculty and staff of Saint Michael College in Surigao del Sur, all 43 of them, beat a path (as yet less traveled by) to Central Visayan Institute (CVI) for a whole day of observation and interviews with students and staff.
- In September 2004, the Ateneo de Zamboanga team detoured for a day of observation at CVI.
- Faculties of the Lonoy Heroes Memorial High School, the Calabacita High School and the Holy Trinity Academy of Loay (Bohol) made the trek to CVI in October and November 2004.
- The principals of the Edsor consortium (consisting of ICA, Xavier, Poveda and La Salle-Greenhills) visited on Feb. 1.
- In May 2005, 100 teachers and 100 students will attend a CVI math workshop.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ/PAGE DESIGN BY ERNIE SAMBO

Eager pilgrims of pedagogy leave enthusiastic about the DLP. How do the children of poor households learn to appreciate Fermat's Last Theorem?

Student response

The basic behavioral premise at CVI is that if you create a local environment that rewards enquiry and reflection, students will follow the cue. Each student is a pool of potentials (aggression, predation, reflection, etc.) and which gene becomes expressed depends on the payoffs in the environment.

The Philippine environment sadly punishes hard work and celebrates the "Eat Bulaga" chic; thus, the "Eat Bulaga" gene dominates and the smart gene recedes. By contrast, "Smart is cool" is idiomatic at CVI. This allows the "smart gene" to find expression.

Is it replicable?

To many, CVI appears in every respect a singularity. Where else do the principal and the director of studies appear as authors in the Journal of Mathematical Physics and other international journals? CVI has two PhDs with established international reputation in path integral method and white noise analysis, living like Trappist monks on a salary of P10,000 a month. Indeed, CVI faculty has a better international publications record than 90 percent of all science faculties in the Philippines, including UP where the Bernidos once taught with distinction.

CVI also co-hosts with its affiliated institution, the Research Center for Theoretical Physics, an international physics conference in Jagna every three to four years and whose past speakers included Frank Wilczek and Gerard 't Hooft, both Nobel Prize winners (2004 and 1999, respectively).

World science oasis

How the Bernidos made Jagna a world science oasis (the latest one held on Jan. 3-7 dealt with the exciting Hida-Connes calculus) with nary a government support is yet another miracle deserving a separate treatise.

And yet, CVI struggles with the most banal problems: it squats on land owned by others on whose kind sufferance depends its physical, though clearly not its intellectual position. Meeting weekly payroll is a regular challenge. Loss of faculty to public high schools (almost double entry pay) is a Poisson process.

The depth of absurdity was plumbed when the Department of Education (DepEd) banned the Bernidos from teaching high school Physics and Mathematics for lack of teaching licensure after teaching Quantum Mechanics at the UP National Institute of Physics. (Maria Victoria, initially stunned, dutifully took the minimum adequate education courses and ranked second in the national licensure exam.) CVI is nothing if not quintessentially abnormal.

That being said, the basic features of the DLP, the heavy emphasis on "learning by doing," the radical trust in the youth's capacity to learn, the learning as pseudo-play, and the unparalleled transparency through simultaneous instruction are all accessible without the idiosyncratic features of CVI. Great courage is still required to push DLP. The Bernidos made numerous enemies before being allowed to settle on the gentler side of fury. Theirs is an undeclared war against the Filipino disease of taking the path of least resistance. Can the entropic inertia be kept at bay elsewhere?

Can DLP produce its magic without the Bernidos? That experiment FAPE wants to run.

Empire strikes back

CVI represents a mutant subculture trying to find breathing space under an overarching dominant cultural milieu. That a discordant local steady state requires a counterforce provided by an outsider is demanded by the conservation principle. The Bernidos provide such counter-energy at CVI. They draw strength outside of the dominant culture. Will such rarity survive and replicate?

That the overarching ocean of entropy is itself under assault from forces it cannot control inspires hope. By every international comparative standard, the Philippines is falling behind (gross domestic product per capita growth, corruption indices, math and science standardized scores, and International Math Olympics). *See table.*

Average math and science scores of 8th-grade students (2003)

Country/Territory	Math	Science
Singapore	605	578
South Korea	589	558
Hong Kong, SAR	586	556
Chinese Taipei	585	571
Japan	570	552
Netherlands	536	536
Estonia	531	552
Hungary	529	543
Malaysia	508	510
Russia	508	514
Australia	505	527
United States	504	527
Lithuania	502	519
Sweden	499	524
Israel	496	488
New Zealand	494	520
Slovenia	493	520
Italy	484	491
Armenia	478	461
Serbia	477	468
Romania	475	470
Norway	461	494
Macedonia	435	449
Lebanon	433	393
Jordan	424	475
Iran	411	453
Indonesia	411	420
Egypt	406	421
Palestinian Authority	390	435
Morocco	387	396
Botswana	366	365
Saudi Arabia	332	398
Ghana	276	255
South Africa	264	244
International Average	*466*	*473*

SOURCE: INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE EVALUATION OF EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT, TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE STUDY, 2003

The harvest is a massive "winter of our discontent," surfacing as a gnawing hunger for a way out of the morass. Some find solace in a US visa. Others prefer to stay and fight.

But the dominant ethos has automatic defense mechanisms. Does a CVI graduate's romance with the periodic table confer on him a superior advancement potential? As it stands, most CVI graduates are ending up in dead-end colleges. They join their parents in peddling RTWs or plowing the field. In 2004, only one of the five CVI graduates who passed the UPCAT enrolled at the state university because the package offered by the UP Socialized Tuition and Financial Assistance Program was too puny for the poor. (UP should raise fees for wealthy entrants to adequately finance poor CVI and kindred hurdlers). For many, the romance will end in a bitter divorce. Creating scientific and technological smarts in the Philippines is a lonely Sisyphean labor.

Scaling up

Spreading the CVI virus is frustrating. There is reason enough to feed a proclivity for despair. But look closer. There are elements in society that already share the virus. In the business sector, global players like the Ayala Group and the Smart group embrace the ethos of precision and rules-based governance and chafe under the burden of the old ethos. Marching to a different drummer is a privilege they pay dearly for. Some local government units like Marikina are coming around. Scaling up these local successes, however, remains a daunting challenge.

Some suggestions may help. The chances of this type of graduates entering institutions that celebrate the kindred ethos must rise: (1) Make entrance exams heavily weighted for Math and Science, and (2) Offer adequate fellowships for poor hurdlers. CVI and kindred school graduates already have much higher math and science aptitude than a regular college graduate.

Tsunami

Second, DepEd should devise an accreditation exam for math and science teaching. The only requirement is a high school degree. Passing this exam is necessary but not a sufficient condition for teaching high school Math and Science. Those who pass the exam are required to finish only 18 additional education units to be fully accredited to teach Math and Science in high school.

This should reinforce the Makabayan Program, which the Bernidos consider a correct decision if still sorely inadequate. This was the path Marivic Bernido herself was forced to take. Was it so long ago when sixth-grade finishers taught grade school with distinction?

The private business sector can help by recruiting directly from the top echelon graduates of select high schools and providing them with work-study programs. Better attitudes and sturdier smarts are available here.

Linked up, they can make a tsunami of the lonely isolated ripples that will set Filipino smarts free.

(Dr. Raul V. Fabella is dean of the UP School of Economics and member of the National Academy of Science and Technology; Dr. Cristina B. Fabella, an obstetrician-gynecologist, is an active consultant at the Cardinal Santos Medical Center and Amang Rodriguez Medical Center; and, Vigile Marie Fabella is a freshman at the UP School of Economics. The paper was conceived while the Fabellas were on vacation in Jagna, Bohol.)

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NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
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Fear of terror reaches Leyte capital

MAASIN CITY—A box left behind at the public plaza across the Maasin Cathedral caused a commotion on Friday, after police and some residents thought that it contained a bomb.

Two hours after deliberating on what to do, the police decided to blow up the box, measuring one cubic feet. It turned out that the box only contained charcoal.

"We could not take this incident lightly," said Supt. Alfredo Sabornido, Southern Leyte police director, when asked if the police had overreacted.

He denied that the incident only showed the lack of bomb experts at the Southern Leyte Provincial Police Office.

Sabornido said there were two bomb experts in the province but only one was able to respond to the alarm because the other was on official travel.

He added it took them two hours to decide on what to do because of the difficulty in controlling the crowd.

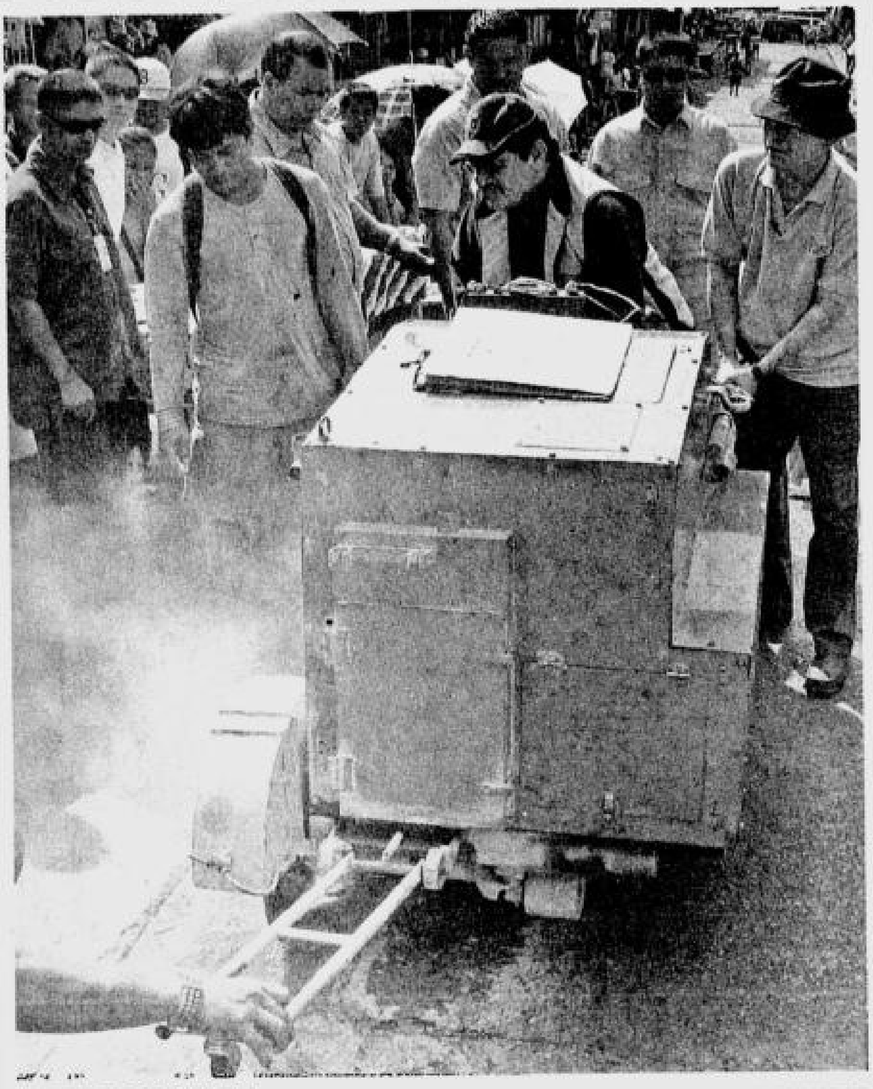
Sabornido, however, admitted that what happened was somewhat a "bomb drill" for them. It was the first time that such an incident happened in Maasin.

Witnesses told the police that one of the four men who alighted from a bus left behind the box at the perimeter fence of Anatalio Gaviola Plaza at about 8 a.m. on Friday.

Rodolfo Palen, a plaza photographer, said he opened the box and found that it contained charcoal. "But when I lifted it, the box was so heavy so I thought it contained a bomb," he told the INQUIRER.

Word then spread about the box and reached the police, which cordoned the area.

Curious passersby and students at nearby Saint Joseph College, the biggest school in the city, started milling around the area, prompting the police to widen the cordon. *Jani Arnaiz, Visayas Bureau*



ANTI-POLLUTION ERNIE SARMIENTO

Officials of Puerto Princesa, led by Mayor Edward Hagedorn, and environmental lawyer Antonio Oposa (first from right) start cutting the center of a concrete pavement on busy Bonuan Street in the city to pave the way for the planting of trees. The road is part of a car-free zone being designed in the city to reduce pollution.

Baguio Church leaders campaign in pulpit vs Pagcor franchise

BAGUIO CITY—Church leaders of different denominations are distributing copies of a manifesto during Sunday Mass which calls for a public denunciation of a House measure that extends the franchise of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor).

Copies of the manifesto reached churchgoers who attended Saturday masses.

A Baguio-based ecumenical and multi-sectoral group opposed to gambling issued the manifesto on Thursday evening, saying they were embarrassed that Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan shepherded Pagcor's extension through Congress.

Domogan chairs the House committee on government franchises.

"We anti-gambling advocates are taking this personally. How can we tell the rest of the country that we are against gambling when he makes it appear that Baguio has conceded to gambling?" asked lawyer Alexander Bangsoy, spokesperson of the group.

Bewildered

Bangsoy, Fr. Andres Cosalan Jr., vicar-general of the Catholic Diocese of Baguio, and Pastor Simplicio Dng-awan, senior administrative pastor of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, signed the manifesto. Councilor Galo Weygan, a television evangelist, is part of the group that introduced the document to the media.

The manifesto is a criticism of Domogan, who announced in January that he inserted a provision in the new franchise bill requiring Pagcor to seek local government consent before it can introduce gaming facilities like casinos.

Domogan said he was bewildered by the Church objections because providing local governments the power over state-run gaming projects is a solution to the conflicts over government gambling.

An official of the administration Lakas party, he said it was the best compromise to a bill which Malacañang favors because Pagcor is the third largest revenue-generating government agency.

"Deceitful"

But the manifesto claimed that Pagcor's submission to the local governments is "a deceitful lure to veer away from the premature 50-year extension and all-encompassing coverage given to Pagcor" by House Bill No. 3409.

"As people in Baguio experienced last year, they saw how the city council and the former mayor paved the (way for the) entry of a casino in Camp John Hay, in their capacities as representatives of the people in the local government," the manifesto said.

It referred to a Camp John Hay casino project, which the council approved in 2003, violating one of its prerequisites for developing the former American facility.

The second condition set by the city council in 1994 forbids the developers from setting up a casino in an otherwise "family oriented" John Hay estate.

"The bill? [is] tailor made to accommodate the floating casinos of Macau gambling magnate Stanley Ho. With the social problems created by gambling, do we really want Pagcor to lure and influence our own children, fathers, mothers, aunts and neighbors to the false hopes it dangles?" the manifesto said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Operators blamed for high NLEx fare

CONCERNED commuters have assailed public transport operators using the newly completed North Luzon Expressway (NLEx) for allegedly overcharging their passengers using as excuse the recent increase in toll at the expressway.

Jesus "Teng" Lim, secretary general of the Kilusan ng Malayang Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luzon (KMMGL), said in a press statement that members of his group and other concerned sectors from the region have complained about exorbitant fees arbitrarily imposed by passenger jeepneys, buses and FX taxis following the toll fee hikes at the NLEx.

"*Wala kaming problema sa* toll fee. *Ang problema namin ay ang mapagsamantalang mga* driver *at* operator *ng* FX taxi *at* jeepneys *na nagtaas ng singil sa pasahe at ibinibintang sa* toll fee (We have no problems about the toll fees. Our problem is the abusive drivers and operators of jeepneys and FX taxis who raised their fares, but blame it on the toll fees)," Lim said.

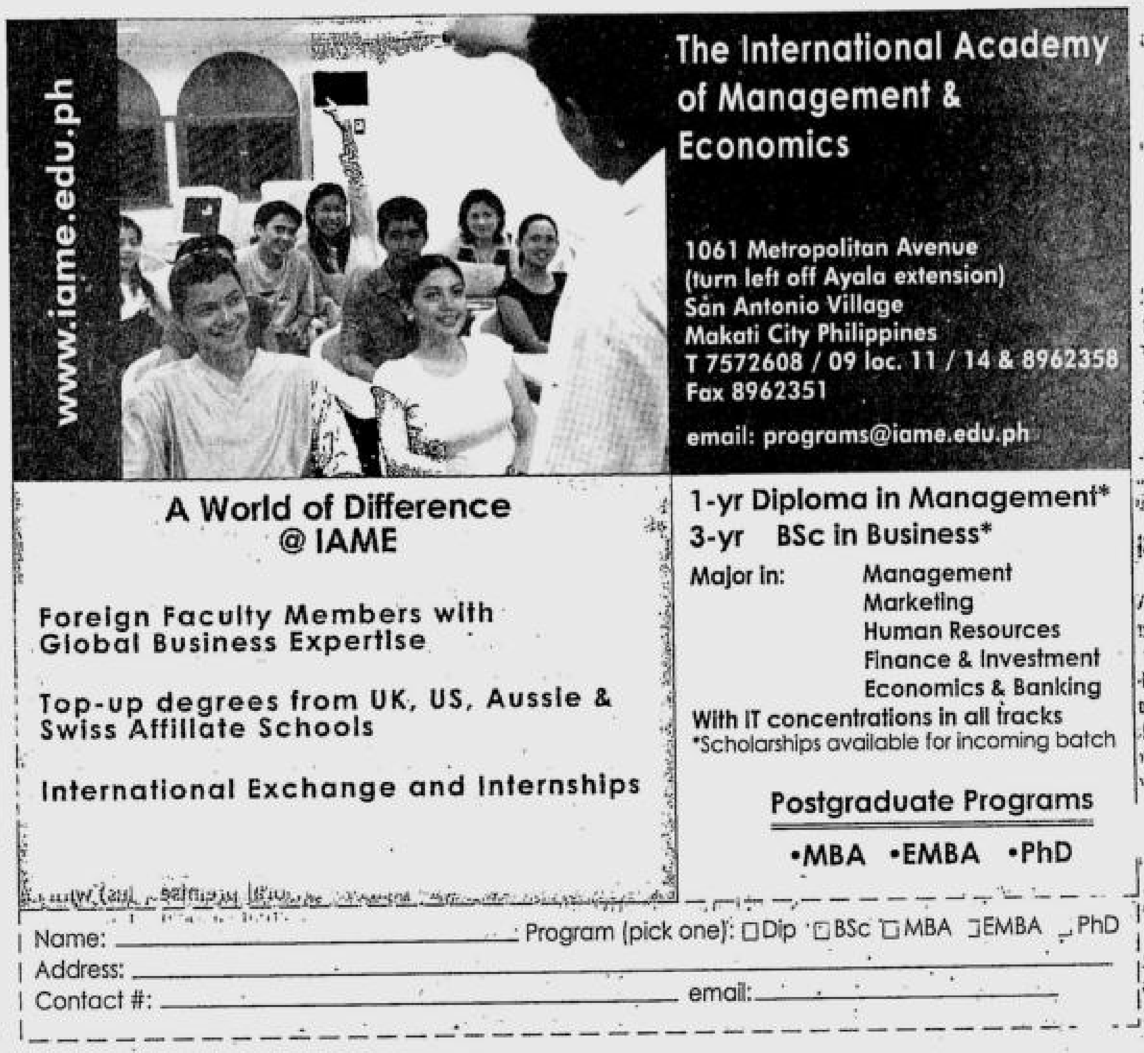
The FX taxis illegally increase their minimum fare from P40 to P50 on the heels of the toll hikes implemented by the NLEx without government approval. For its part, the Baliwag Transit now charges a P55 from its terminal in Caloocan City to Pulilan, up by about P15. In addition, the bus company has reportedly cut down discount for students to only 10 percent from government-prescribed 20 percent.

Lim pointed out that with the illegal fare hikes, FX taxis now muster additional income of about P600 if they could make 10 round trips daily.

The Department of Transportation and Communication has said the Land Transportation Office should exercise closer and stricter regulation of passenger fares being implemented by FX taxis and jeepneys using the NLEx to protect public welfare.

At the same time, Lim cited the completion of the NLEx, saying it allowed faster and more convenient travel for both passengers and merchandise. "Farm produce can now reach the market in much shorter time, enhancing in the process the income of farmers and other merchants," he said.

Nevertheless, he said the KMMGL would continue to monitor cost of transportation that uses the NLEx. He batted, however, for the grant of more incentives, including toll discounts, to regular NLEx users.



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OUT OF 6M TARGET

GMA says 3M jobs to come from small, medium trade

BINALONAN, Pangasinan—President Macapagal-Arroyo said three million of the six million jobs she promised to create within her term would come from entrepreneurs who would start or expand their businesses.

The President, during a visit here on Saturday, said micro, small and medium-scale enterprises (MSMEs) are very crucial to the generation of jobs.

That was why government financial institutions (GFIs) are being tapped to enhance the access of three million entrepreneurs to credit, technology and marketing information.

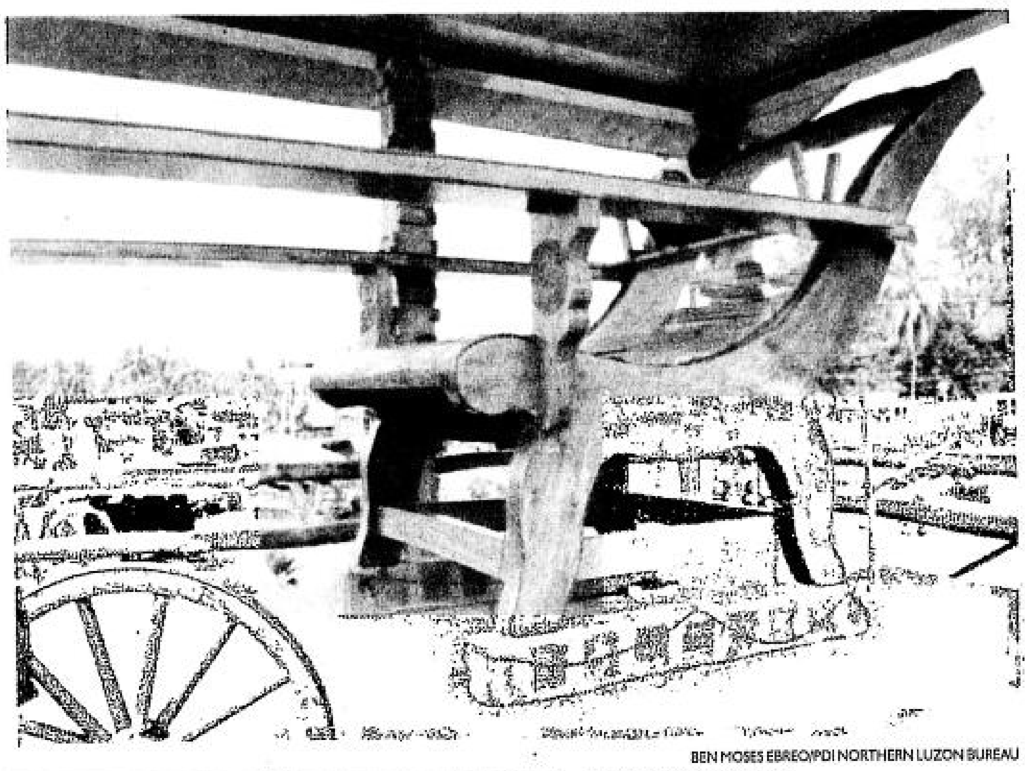
Ms Arroyo visited this eastern Pangasinan town, the hometown of her late mother, Evangelina, to promote agriculture and livelihood as part of her 10-point agenda.

An October 2004 labor force survey report said 659,000 jobs were created in the service sector while 159,000 jobs were posted in the industry sector.

The report said more than P20 billion was lent to SMEs, while micro-credit worth more than P2 billion was given to 281,078 borrowers from January to September 2004.

During her visit, Ms Arroyo and Land Bank of the Philippines president Margarito Teves awarded P1.2 million to the Bolaoen Multi-Purpose Cooperative, a group engaged in grain and *palay* trading, and six women associations from the province.

"(The financial assistance) is aimed at providing livelihood projects to women in the countryside who otherwise have no source of income," said Pangasinan Gov. Victor Agbayani. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes and Eric Montoya, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



BEN MOSES EBREO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

ILAGAN'S PRIDE
A worker repairs a giant reclining chair given the name "butaca" by Spaniards. The giant chair is displayed along the national highway in Ilagan, Isabela and has become the icon of the province's finest furniture makers.

ROUNDUP

Debating champs

CONGRATULATIO
UBSHS

BAGUIO CITY—The University of Baguio Science High School romped off with the top prize in the second National Asians Debate Tournament, beating Philippine Science High School in the finals. Apesa Chungalao of the UBSHS was chosen the best rookie speaker in the tournament held Feb. 4-8 at the De La Salle University. Three others in the team were among the top five speakers. Fifty-six high schools all over the country participated in the tournament.
Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Cop charged with threats

CAMP GEN. ALEJO SANTOS, Bulacan—Two policemen from Paombong, Bulacan, were charged with grave threats and physical injuries for poking a gun at and beating up a man during a cockfight derby in the town on Feb. 14. The complainant, Nelson Tuazon, 38, of Angeles City, claimed PO3 Victor Gonzales and his companion, PO1 Jose Uring, beat him up after he declared a "draw" in the match involving Gonzales' cock. Tuazon, a judge in the derby, said Gonzales wanted him to declare that the latter's cock had won the match. He said Gonzales threatened him while Uring poked his gun and beat him. Both policemen were drunk, Tuazon claimed in a complaint to the police.
Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Rape suspect falls

KIDAPAWAN CITY—After four years, a rape suspect, who left his seven-year-old victim for dead after smashing her head with a stone, was finally caught. Larry Laniacap, who fled Magpet, North Cotabato immediately after committing the crime, was recently arrested in Calapan town in Oriental Mindoro. Magpet Mayor Efren Piñol Sr., said the suspect was arrested after a tip-off.
Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Mild tremor in Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—A mild earthquake shook Southern Mindanao and some parts of Central Mindanao on Tuesday night but no damage was reported. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said the 10:42 p.m. tremor, which registered a magnitude of 5.5 on the Richter scale, was felt in the cities of Davao, General Santos, Zamboanga and Kidapawan in North Cotabato, and in the provinces of Sarangani, Davao del Norte and Davao Oriental. Ferdinand Taglucop, Phivolcs science analyst, said the quake was tectonic in origin and was traced 250 degrees southeast of General Santos City. *Dennis Jay Santos and Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

NPA rebs snipe cops

LEGAZPI CITY—A member of the 507th police provincial mobile group based in Cataingan town in Masbate province was allegedly attacked by a suspected New People's Army sniper at 6:45 a.m. Thursday. Masbate police provincial director Supt. Paulino Rañada Jr. said the victim, PO3 Raul Guarin, was being treated at Cataingan District Hospital. Rañada had ordered the different police stations to stay alert and strengthen security in all government-owned and public installations for possible NPA attacks.
Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Teresa Dupaya; 84

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Former Cagayan Gov. Teresa Dupaya died on Feb. 11 due to a lingering illness. She was 84. Dupaya, the first woman governor of Cagayan, helped put up the Cagayan Museum and was known for her support in popularizing Ibanag culture. She also supported the development of the Callao Caves in Peñablanca town and was instrumental in making these natural wonders the prime tourist attraction of Cagayan. Dupaya, wife of the late Cagayan Rep. Tito Dupaya, served as governor from 1964 to 1980 and as officer-in-charge governor in 1987.
Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

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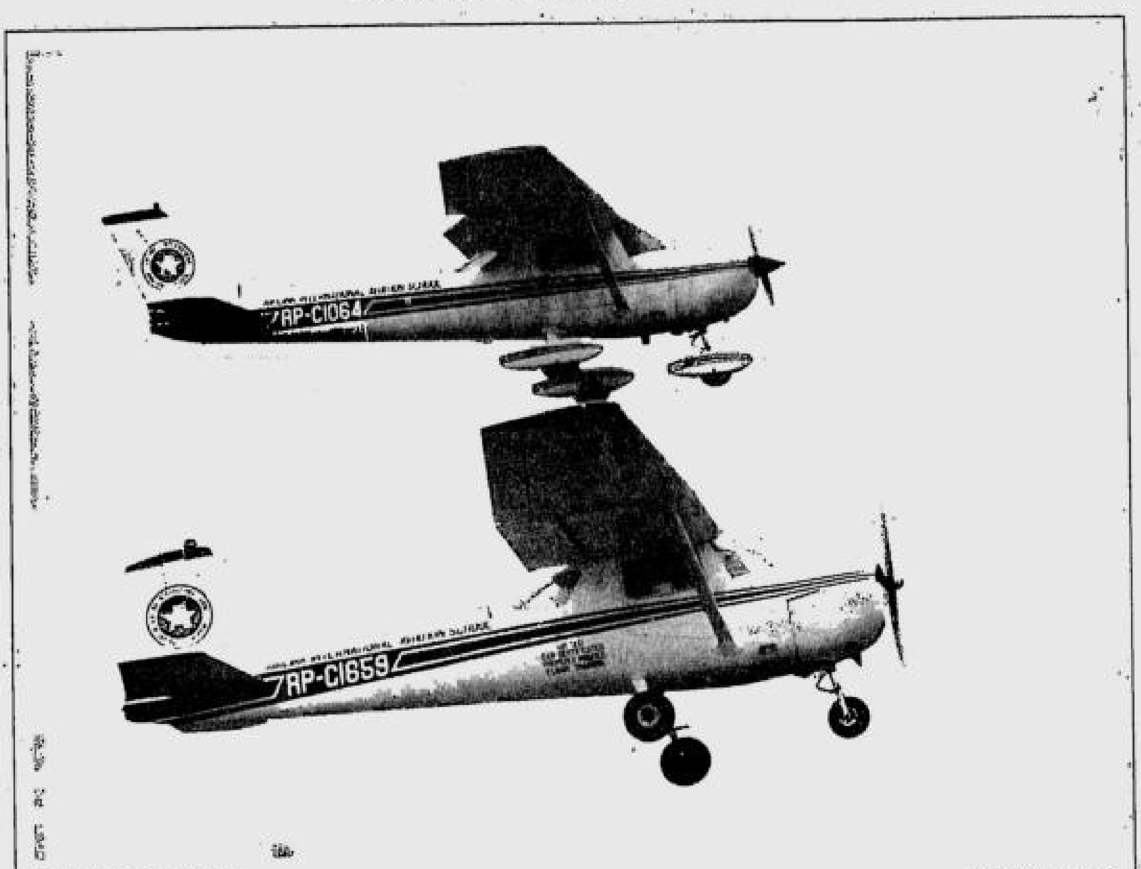

TAKING FLIGHT
Two single engine aircraft from an aviation school do acrobatic stunts during the recent sporting event in Clark hosted by the Department of Tourism.
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Top Clark executive quits, says term was 'gruelling'

By Jun Malig
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ANGELES CITY—The president and chief executive officer of the Clark Development Corp. (CDC) formally announced his "irrevocable retirement" effective March 16 from the state-owned firm.

Lawyer Emmanuel Angeles, 68, who has led the CDC since March 2001, announced his retirement from public service during the launching of the Plaridel Institute for Strategic Studies and gathering of members of the Movement for a Strong Philippines (MSP) at the Angeles University Foundation Professional Schools here on Saturday.

The MSP, formally launched at the Quezon City Sports Club on Feb. 5, is being chaired by Angeles. He initially introduced the non-political, nonprofit and non-partisan movement in Central Luzon on Nov. 4 last year and in Mindanao last month.

"I have decided to tender my irrevocable retirement from public office effective March 16 because I believe that it's time for me to embark on another chapter of my life and discover more great possibilities," he said.

Angeles said becoming CDC president was not an easy start for him.

"There was strong resistance from some individuals who were not prepared for change. For the first time in my life, I felt like living under a microscope as I became favorite subject of publicity and scrutiny not only by the media, but (also) by the same people who unfairly doubted my ability to lead and manage Clark Special Economic Zone," he said.

Sources told the INQUIRER that Antonio Ng, reportedly close to Francisco Licuanan, presidential adviser for Clark and Subic, would be the next CDC president.

But when asked who would replace him in the state-owned firm, Angeles just smiled and politely answered, "Sorry, but I don't know yet."

Describing his term at CDC as "four gruelling years" under the "scorching heat of limelight," Angeles said he had been contemplating about his retirement "for quite some time now" because he has been planning to spend his retirement years "more fruitfully and happily."

In his speech, Angeles mentioned President Macapagal-Arroyo's statement during the capsule-laying ceremony of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Clark Field on Sept. 28 last year that she would let him stay as president and CEO of the CDC "for as long as he wants."

"But I feel it's time for me to move on after having successfully achieved what I have initially envisioned for Clark. Looking back, I can honestly say that the CDC experience was truly worth the sweat, blood and tears," he said.

Some 400 business projects worth P5.6 billion were approved in Clark during Angeles' term. Local and foreign business locators inside the economic zone rose from 268 in 2001 to 326 as of December 2004.

The annual export of business firms in Clark also rose from $291.5 million in 2001 to $895.8 million in 2004 or a growth of 46 percent within four years.

The CDC's net income rose from P2 million in 2001 to P37.5 million in 2004. Tax contributions of Clark locators to the national government totaled P815 million from 2001 to 2003.

KBP orders 'sober' reporting on radio of terrorist attacks

NAGA CITY—The Kapisanan ng mga Brodkasters sa Pilipinas (KBP) has ordered all radio broadcasters and reporters nationwide to report bombings and terror attacks "soberly."

The KBP is the only nationwide organization of broadcast networks in the country and only two networks are not affiliated with it—GMA 7 and the Bombo Radyo.

The order, issued by Ruperto Nicdao Jr., national president of the KBP, a day after the bombings, was faxed to the radio stations here to remind members "to exercise the highest professional standards and avoid unduly aggravating the situation."

KBP Circular No. 05-014 issued on Feb. 15, 2005 provided the guidelines of reporting terrorist activities as follows:

- Report the events soberly and factually.
- Avoid sensationalism and put the events you report in proper perspective.
- Observe balance in your reports at all times.
- Do not unnecessarily create panic and alarm.
- Guard against airing speeches, interviews and other material(s) which openly advocate the overthrow of government by force or violence or which serve the purposes of terrorist groups.

Sammy Garcia, chair of the KBP chapter in Camarines Sur, said the order is sanctioned by the Radio Code of KBP.

He said violating members, networks and broadcasters, would face sanctions and penalties.

Garcia said one-time offenders are fined P1,000 and a written reprimand, and for the two-time offenders, P3,000, a three-month suspension that include a three-month suspension of the privileges of the station.

He said that three-time offenders are fined P5,000 and suspended for six months while the broadcasting stations are imposed with six months suspension of privileges.

Garcia said the KBP cancels, revokes accreditation or expels broadcasters from the organization after repeated offenses and recommends to the National Telecommunications Commissions (NTC) the cancellation of permits to operate of broadcasting stations.

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Suspected gun-for-hire arrested

COTABATO CITY—A suspected gun-for-hire linked to the series of killings here, including the murder of a regional official in 2002, was arrested by police authorities on Friday.

Insp. Samson Obatay, city police Precinct 4 commander, said Otto Salik Ayunan was arrested after a relative shot and wounded him in the leg.

The suspect was allegedly trying to rob his cousin, whom police declined to identify.

Obatay said Ayunan's link to the murder of Joel Maglunob, assistant director of the social welfare regional office in Central Mindanao, was provided by witnesses.

Maglunob, a former broadcast journalist, was shot dead in front of his residence on Macapagal Street here, a day after obtaining his designation as assistant regional director.

He just came home from a hectic relief operation in war-torn Pikit town in North Cotabato, when two gunmen ended his life at 35.

At the Cotabato Regional Hospital here, another witness linked him to the death in 2004 of a senior employee of the Cotabato Light and Power Co.

Ayunan was mum on the charges against him.

Obatay said police investigators found out that Ayunan is a "notorious criminal" that "could be hired for a liquidation mission at a price of P1,500."

"His nefarious activities also include kidnap-for-a-fee, extortion and robbery," he said.

Obatay said Ayunan also has pending arrest orders from RTC Judge Ismael Bagundang, who retired last year, and his successor Judge Kadira Indal for "frustrated murder" and "frustrated robbery."

Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

5,000 log industry workers rally to demand lifting of logging ban

SOME 5,000 employees and workers of the wood-based industry held rallies in various cities of Mindanao for the lifting of the total log ban imposed by the government more than two and half months ago.

The rallies were held simultaneously on Feb. 17, 1005 at Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental, in Butuan City, Agusan del Norte and in Davao City. These areas are hosts to large wood-based processing plants and legal timber operations.

During the rallies, Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr., whose constituents make up majority of the demonstrators, talked to the groups, assuring them of his support adding that the total log ban undermines the 10-point economic agenda of President Macapagal-Arroyo whose focus, ironically, he said, is job generation.

In a press statement, Pichay said the log ban will eliminate 2 million jobs and P20 billion in export earnings.

Pichay said that if Environment Secretary Michael Defensor does not act on the plight of the workers, bigger rallies are forthcoming, adding that the sustainable forest management system is working well in the Caraga Region.

The spokesman of the labor groups, Felix Villacastin, president of the Labor and Management Council of Caraga (Lampara), questioned why Mindanao workers are made to suffer something that happened in Luzon.

He said that workers are willing to quit their jobs immediately if the government can provide them with an alternative work. They said that their children have stopped going to school owing to the nationwide log ban.

The demonstrators also conducted a dialogue with DENR Region 10 Executive Direc tor Maximo Dichoso.

They said the suspension of timber cutting permits has greatly affected the operation of wood-based companies with 8,000 workers in Region 10 who are now in danger of totally losing their only source of income.

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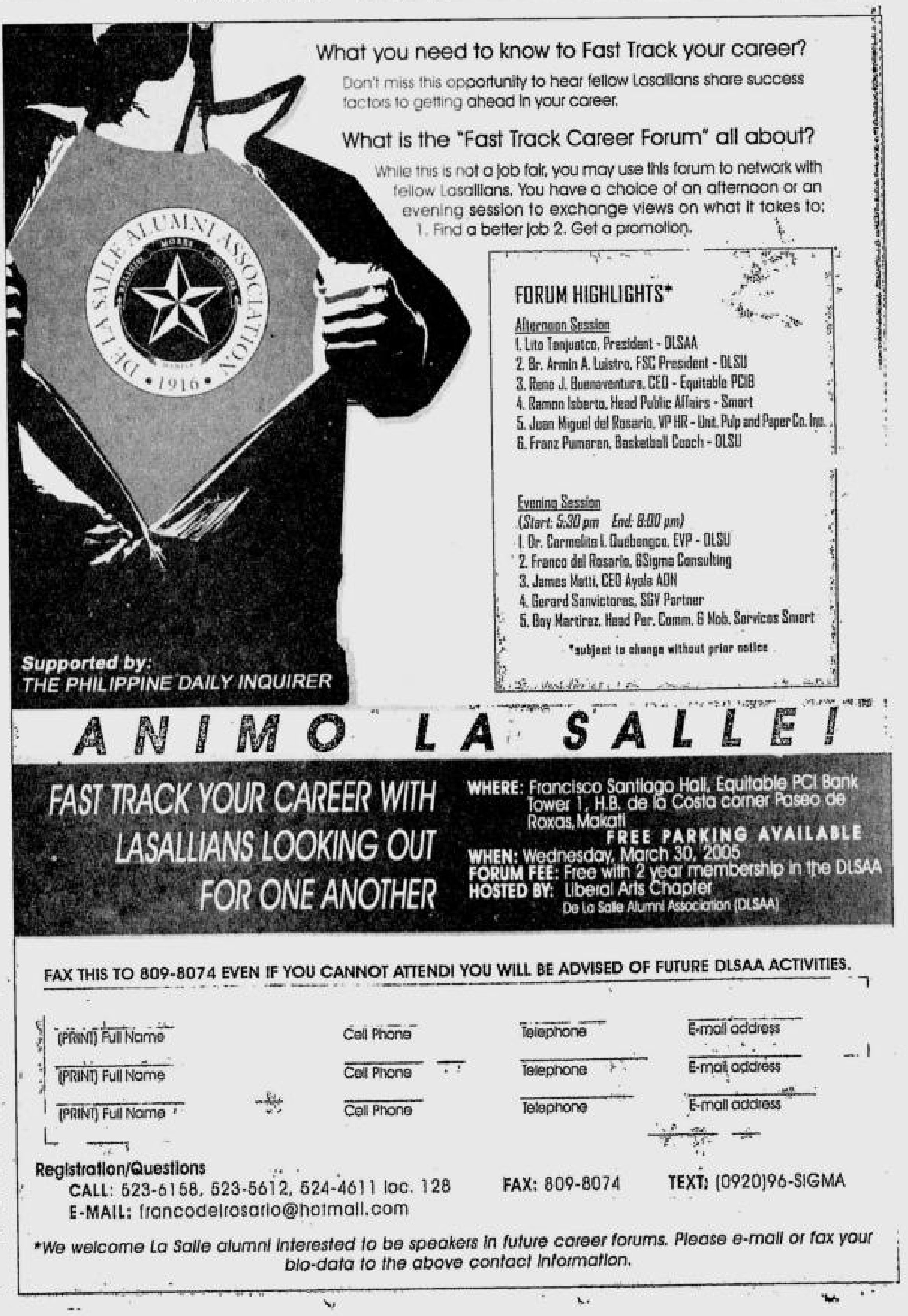
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2. Br. Armin A. Luistro, FSC President - DLSU
3. Rene J. Buenaventura, CEO - Equitable PCIB
4. Ramon Isberto, Head Public Affairs - Smart
5. Juan Miguel del Rosario, VP HR - Unt. Pulp and Paper Co. Inc.
6. Franz Pumaren, Basketball Coach - DLSU
Evening Session
(Start: 5:30 pm End: 8:00 pm)
1. Dr. Carmelita I. Quebengco, EVP - DLSU
2. Franco del Rosario, 6Sigma Consulting
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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Antiterror bills take rough roads

By Nash B. Maulana
Davao City

> *"Terrorism cannot survive without the Oxygen of publicity."*
>
> –Margaret Thatcher
> former Prime Minister of Britain

HOW DOES the government qualify the act of terrorism?" a peace worker from the Balay Kalinao (House of Peace) in Cagayan de Oro City asked in a consultation forum last month.

"Is it by the number of casualties? Or does it look at other circumstances—like psychological, social, cultural or even religious, or only the last two of these—in passing an Anti-Terrorism Act?"

For lawyer Silvino Cinches, National Bureau of Investigation director for Central Mindanao, "the crime of Timothy McVeigh in bombing the Oklahoma building in 1993 and the felony of Osama bin Laden in ordering the attack on the World Trade Center in 2001 (constituted) the same act of terrorism."

But how serious are we in fighting terrorism?

A Muslim participant in another forum in Davao City, sponsored by the American Bar Association (Aba), last month on the antiterrorism bills pending in Congress said: "Terrorists are likened to a bearer of foul substance, who goes around and deliberately touch other people with it: The ones unwittingly getting the filth, often get punished; the originators usually don't."

Escape

He pointed out that the most prominent of Philippine terrorists have had in their records having escaped from some of the most secured prison cells in the country: Khadaffy Janjalani (Camp Crame, 1995); Faizal Marohombsar (Camp Crame, 2001); Tahir Alonto (South Cotabato provincial jail, 2002); and Fathur Roman al-Ghozi (Camp Crame, 2003).

Lawyer Zainudin Malang, director of the Center for Moro Legal and Policy Concerns said: "One of the grave consequences of the government's campaign against terrorists has been the alarmingly widespread serious violations of the rights of members of the Muslim community in the Philippines. With recent acts of terrorism committed by groups invariably labeled as 'Islamic,' antiterrorism measures have expectedly yielded suspects coming from the Muslim community."

Suicide bombing plot

Last month, terrorism again took the media spotlight with reports that the arrest of 17 Muslim individuals in a raid on the Islamic Center in Quiapo, Manila, was prompted by verified intelligence reports about an alleged suicide bombing plot to be launched on the Feast of the Black Nazarene in Quiapo (Jan. 9).

The Philippine Council for Islam and Democracy (PCID) has called on the local Muslim religious authorities to help the "community of usual suspects" make a stand on terrorism, preferably one that would concur with the unanimous verdict of Middle Eastern and European Islamic scholars against terrorism.

The PCID was to have officially consulted Dr. Mahid Mutilan who, as a Muslim scholar and vice governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, is the highest Muslim official in authority to render such opinion for the government.

But Mutilan was unable to attend roundtable forums (on the theme, "Prospects of Peace in Mindanao and the Global Fight against Terrorism), which the PCID has organized in Manila last December and in Cotabato City last month.

TIGHT security measures are implemented inside the Davao City Overland Transport Terminal as it goes back to normal operations after the Feb. 14 bombing. BING GONZALES

Mutilan, who is reportedly being groomed by Malacañang for appointment as "transitional governor" of the ARMM (within the extended term-of-office of regional officials), had said that issuing statements on terrorism and terrorists would portray him as "fanatically judgmental" to fellow Muslims (then referring to the captors of Filipino hostage Angelo de la Cruz).

One participant in the Davao antiterrorism forum said a security analyst presenter from the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (Nica) had overlooked the case of American Michael Meiring, whose gadget exploded in a hotel room in Davao City and damaged properties there in February 2002.

Ma. Concepcion Clamor, Nica senior regional intelligence analyst, traced the path of terrorism in the country from the Afghanistan war in 1979 to the "kill-the-Pope plot" which intelligence operatives had unveiled with the arrest of several Middle Easterners at the Josefa Apartments in Malate, Manila in 1994; and then to the 2000 Sipadan Island Resort kidnapping of mostly Westerner tourists; the Bali, Indonesia bombing in 2001; to the recapture and killing of Fathur Roman al-Ghozi (2004) in Central Mindanao; down to the current operations on suspected terrorists lair in Maguindanao.

She said the crackdown was leading to local Muslim communities as potential refuge for terrorists with known links with terror cells, locally and internationally. Such is called coddling or providing shelter to terrorists, which, under the Anti-Terrorism Bill version of Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos, constitutes an act of conspiracy to commit terrorism.

Antiterror bills

The two-day Davao forum concluded with a collective output that was almost unanimous at opposing the passage of the antiterrorism bills pending before both houses of Congress.

Lawyers who attended the forum said most of the bills' versions were "broad, vague and loose" in defining terrorism.

Provisions pertaining to the inquisitive period, ranging from 36 hours to 15 days (with qualifier still, for indefinite extension in the version of Marcos), reverses the constitutional presumption of innocence, at first glance. A prolonged inquisitive period puts the burden of proof (of innocence) on the accused ahead of the state prosecutors proving his guilt beyond reasonable doubt.

These are some of the arguments the lawyers put forward questioning the bills' constitutionality. They said the measures made "acts of conspiracy" easier proved (with mere surveillance and verified intelligence reports), than a "single element of conspiracy," which established jurisprudence have made difficult for lawyers to prove in litigation.

Lawyer Anwar Malang noted that the criminal acts stated in the bills as acts of terrorism do already have corresponding penalties under existing laws. Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. underscored this by citing provisions of the Revised Penal Code in his version (House Bill 2222).

"The Muslims could bear the brunt of this measure, once passed into law," said Education Assistant Secretary Camilo Miguel Montessa, president of the Lawyers' League for Liberty (Libertad), quoting a portion of the forum output.

Lawyer Leah Olores of the Aba, which co-sponsored the Davao consultation with Libertad, said the country certainly needed an antiterrorism law, but Congress ought to ensure the preservation and protection of basic rights and individual liberty.

She noted that except for Sen. Alfredo Lim (sponsoring the measure as Senate Bill 1768), the authors of the bills in the Senate were non-lawyers—Senators Manuel Villar (SB 736), Panfilo Lacson (SB 831), Ramon Magsaysay Jr. (1736) and Jinggoy Estrada (SB 871).

In the House, only Locsin and Rep. Douglas Cagas, among the many Congress members sponsoring similar proposed measures, are lawyers.

Wiretapping legalized

Lacson's version legalizes surveillance by wiretapping. The coverage of electronic surveillance is extended in Lim's version to include e-mail, cellular phone conversations and text messaging.

Villar's SB 736 makes it "unlawful for any person to communicate or make available by any means, any information, which he or she knows or believes to be false, to another person, with the intention of inducing in him/her or any other person a false belief that a terrorist act has been, is being or will be, carried out." Under this, however, it is not clear if reporters or their sources would be meted penalty for conspiracy, in case information about a terror attack that was prematurely announced, proved false.

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Dealers and partners during the parasailing activity.

and acknowledged for their effort during the past year.

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Jun Yap, VP for ICT Maeng Dal Bae, Samuel Yap and JunJun Ponce.

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Winners of Samsung tv ads Julius Rosario, John Tan, VP for ICT Maeng Dal Bae, Jun Yap and Roger Chui.

Written by Lotis Soriano
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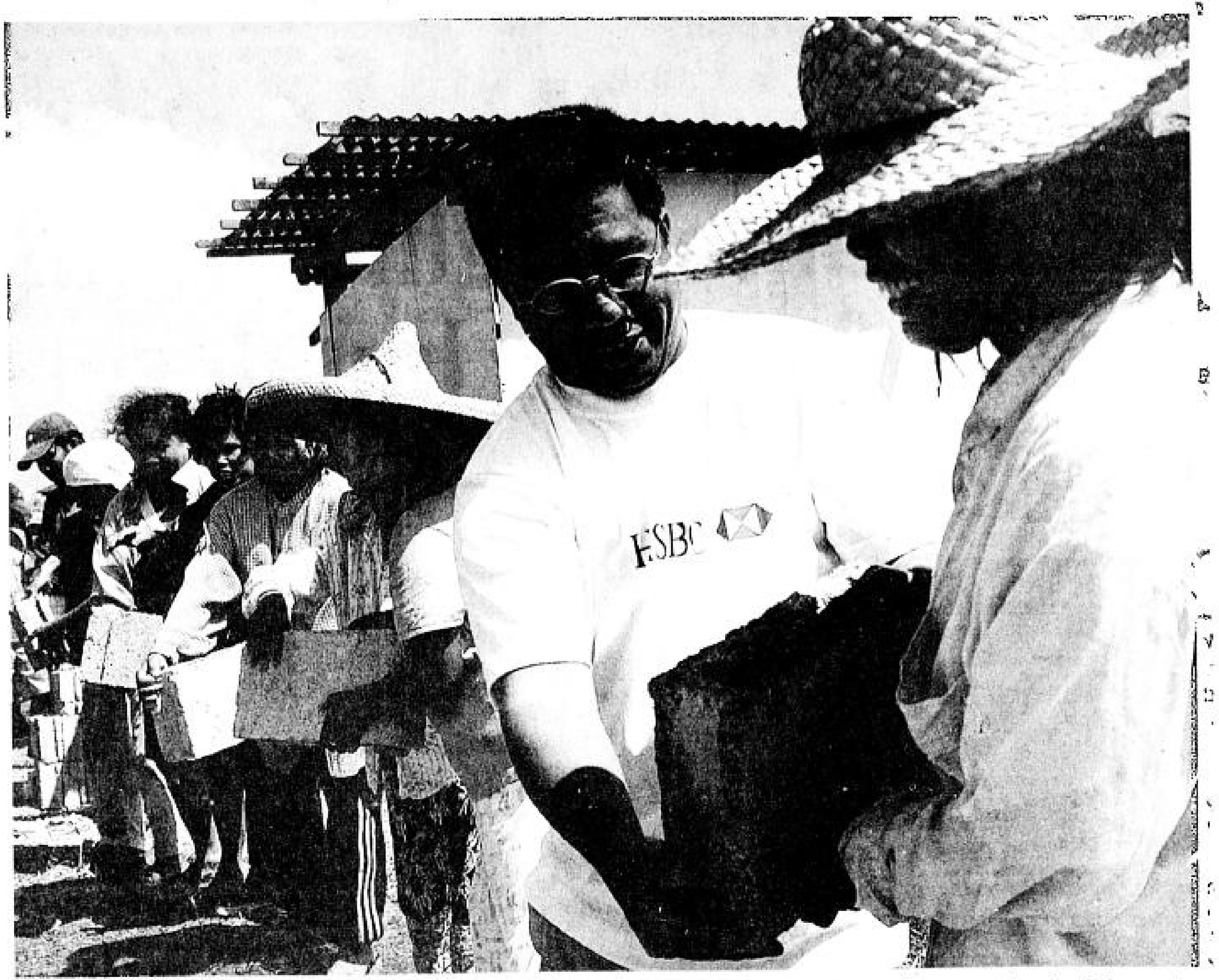
BLOCK by block, British banker Warner Manning, HSBC CEO helps build houses and dreams in Nueva Ecija with Mayor Isidro Pajarillaga for Gawad Kalinga's housing project for typhoon victims. MITCH MAURICIO



BAYANIHAN spirit in action, Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. employees put in "labor equity" at the construction site of a low-cost housing project in Nueva Ecija for families displaced by last year's killer storms. MITCH MAURICIO

UK banker lets go of stiff upper lip at housing project ...

From page A1

stand by her man at the podium. The couple drew grateful applause from the audience.

Eventually, Manning regained poise and jokingly suggested that "maybe my wife should give this speech."

But toward the end of his remarks, he again turned misty-eyed and stalled under the weight of his words: "The idea of working hand in hand—our staff and your families and Gawad Kalinga—is very powerful ... and shows just what we can achieve in this country... *Magtulong-tulong tayo* (Let us help one another)."

The scene became the unexpected highlight of the inauguration of a 10-hectare resettlement project rising in Sitio Pahalang, Barangay San Pedro, through the initiative of the humanitarian group Gawad Kalinga.

Coming from the heart

HSBC has donated P5 million to Gawad Kalinga, with half of the money going to the housing project here and the other to a similar initiative in Payatas, Quezon City, near the La Mesa Dam.

For the Nueva Ecija project, the target is to build up to 300 homes this year for families who lost their houses in the floods unleashed by Tropical Depression "Winnie" last December, said Gawad Kalinga executive director Tony Meloto.

"It could have been easy for HSBC to just give the money," Meloto noted during the program. "But Warner and his wife took time to come here. For me that's something that comes from the heart."

Turning to the couple, he said: "Warner, Julie, this is something you and your children will be proud of."

Building houses themselves

Under the Gawad Kalinga's *bayanihan*-inspired scheme, private sector funding will be used to purchase building materials; the host local government will provide the land and additional site development, including the provision of water and power supplies.

The cost of materials is pegged at P50,000 per house. The future occupants, who were selected by the social welfare department, are required to put up "labor equity" equal to P50,000—meaning they have to build the houses themselves.

Once a large cluster of the houses is finished, a "raffle" will be held to determine which unit goes to whom, Meloto said.

On the part of the Gawad Kalinga volunteers (mostly members of the Catholic lay group Couples for Christ), they will be frequent visitors to the newly born community to organize the residents for livelihood, basic education and values-formation sessions, he said.

For the community

The project is not just about providing decent shelters, Meloto stressed. "Our goal is to give back to the poor their dignity, self-reliance and self-respect," he said.

Prior to the program, the Mannings joined the would-be beneficiaries in a ceremonial laying of hollow blocks and stood for almost half an hour under the hot midday sun helping the workers move more blocks to the site.

Asked by the INQUIRER when was the last time he laid a brick, the CEO, scooping fresh concrete with one hand and fixing a block in place with the other, replied: "I'm from the UK's countryside, from Somerset. I was building houses when I was 18 years old, while I was a student.

"I remember exactly how much I was paid—18 pounds a week. But that was for myself; now this is for the community."

In the interview, Manning showed no sign that he was swelling up inside for an emotional speech minutes later: "I'm having a lot of fun. It's very rewarding to know that [I'm] actually directly helping the community and seeing the results."

He added: "I've been raising money for Children's Hour and for reforestation at La Mesa Dam. I've been involved in this kind of work for many, many years. This is clearly for me the most rewarding because I'm working with people who are going to benefit."

He even had time for a joke: "I want to come back here 15 years later to make sure that this [house I've worked on] is still standing. Otherwise, I'm in deep trouble."

Unforgettable

But Manning apparently need not even lift a finger anymore after that day with Nueva Ecija's poor.

Hilaria Castro, a 66-year-old farmer and one of the project beneficiaries who saw the banking boss weep in public, summed up the impact he had made: "How can I forget him? The moment he started speaking, I was already crying, too."

Going techie ...

From page A1

Justice Artemio Panganiban told his 15 colleagues: "Congratulations, you've just graduated from kindergarten."

With this, the gods of Faura entered the electronic age.

"We have a computer literacy program. There are different modules depending on the desires of the employees ... We started with the justices [and] they're very happy," said Panganiban, chair of the high court's committee on computerization.

The computerization project is part of Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr.'s reform program for the courts—the Action Program for Judicial Reform—which began in 2000.

"I feel that we have to educate our employees in computerization before we can computerize the judiciary. Before we bring in the machines and the software, we must first educate our people, and that education begins with the Supreme Court," said Panganiban.

The crash course, which started on Feb. 2, would be helpful to the justices because some already use computers in writing their decisions while others are still writing them "long-hand," he said.

Davide joked earlier that he would have to skip the course since he might not finish it. The chief justice is set to retire when he turns 70 on Dec. 20.

Pirated

Panganiban said that all the 28,000 employees of the judiciary would eventually have to take the crash course, raising the possibility that they might even be pirated by private companies.

"We know that many of our employees will be pirated. When you are computer-literate, you will be pirated," he said.

"Because the salary in the judiciary is low, private offices will probably pirate our employees. But no matter, we have to continue educating them in the E-age, in the information revolution," he added.

Accolades

Panganiban said Davide's judicial reform program won accolades from all around the world. It was even featured on the World Bank website.

"The reform program is not only acclaimed in the Philippines, it's acclaimed everywhere in the world. The World Bank placed the reform program of the Supreme Court—the blueprint of our reform program—in their website as an example for other countries to follow if they want the support of the World Bank," he said.

Only recently, justices from Vietnam's Supreme Court visited the country to get acquainted with the reform program.

"This is a great tribute to the Supreme Court, and to the Philippines," Panganiban said.

Rock bands perform for typhoon aid

By Jerome Aning

THIRTEEN of the country's most popular rock bands will perform on Feb. 25 in a concert to benefit some 5,000 typhoon-devastated communities in Aurora and Quezon.

"Rock Aid," a fund-raising concert at the Folk Arts Theater, features the bands Agaw Agimat, Slapshock, The Dawn, Radioactive Sago Project, 6 Cycle Mind, Chicosci, Tropical Depression, The Youth, Bayang Barrios, Valley of Chrome, Betrayed and Kapatid.

"Rock Aid" was launched yesterday in simple rites attended by band representatives, officials from the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (Unicef), and Manila 3rd District Rep. Miles Roces.

Renmin Nadela and QT Paduano-Nadela of the band Agaw Agimat conceptualized the concert.

"Rock is often associated with noisy partying, slam dancing, booze and drugs. This time, we want to be part of an effort to help others get back on their feet," Renmin said.

The concert will also make people aware of environmental issues such as restoration of the forests, conservation of the species, the effects of logging and carbon mining in the areas, the Nadelas added.

Concert proceeds will go to the Unicef through the CCP's own relief and livelihood drive "Sagip Baryo: Lingap REINAPO Artists' Initiative."

REINAPO stands for Real, Infanta, Gen. Nakar, Aurora and Polilio Islands.

Unicef's emergency aid, which has been pouring in for the past three months, will be depleted by next month. A lot remains to be done. Help is still needed by more than three million victims of the typhoons "Unding," "Violeta," "Winnie" and "Yoyong."

"We want to reach areas that are difficult to access. The tragedy has a long-term effect," Unicef communications officer Dale Rutstein said.

According to the social welfare department, the typhoons and the resulting floods and landslides killed more than 2,100 people and injured 800 others. More than 687,000 families in 5,000 barangays were affected.

CCP Vice President Fernando Josef said money was also needed for the agency's "cultural therapy" program for children in the affected areas.

Josef, who visited the area recently, said the children had forgotten to sing and play. They would scamper to higher ground at the slightest rain.

"Rock Aid" also hopes to reach to the Agta and Dumagat communities who lost many of their kin, yet received the least support.

Tickets to "Rock Aid" cost P110 each and will be available at 1 p.m. on concert day. The bands will start playing at 6 p.m. until midnight.

P100 will be donated to the Unicef, while the P10 will cover all other expenses.

Those watching the concert are encouraged to bring donations in kind, such as clothes, non-perishable foodstuffs, toys and books.

The CCP and the Unicef accept donations and pledges for the relief effort. Sagip Baryo can be reached at 551-5960 and 832-3674. Unicef hotlines are 758-1000 and 901-0154.

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Path to brighter future opens for poor but deserving students

HARVEY Keh could have earned more if he went into the family business, but his conscience would not allow it.

By Luige A. del Puerto

BORN into privilege, Harvey Keh had everything many Filipinos could only dream of. Educated in one of the best schools in the country, he could look forward to inheriting the family's real estate business if he wanted to.

While most people his age (he is 25) and with his background would be busy building careers or expanding business empires, Keh, the scion of a Chinese-Filipino family, has gone into social work.

He is the director of Pathways to Higher Education, which he helped found at age 22 after receiving a grant from the Ford Foundation.

Pathways finds schools, foundations, business groups and individuals that can support a public school student's education. It also trains a student for college entrance examinations, and tutors him/her to qualify for a scholarship.

PATHWAYS' scholars include children of jeepney drivers, *taho* vendors and former overseas contract workers who would have dropped out of school if they did not get any help.

Money isn't everything

Keh could earn more if he went into the family business, or started his own. But his conscience would not allow it.

"I can't afford to enrich myself while so many people don't even have anything to eat," he tells the INQUIRER in his office inside the Ateneo de Manila University in Quezon City. Keh also hosts two radio programs on Radio Veritas, the Catholic-run station.

How Pathways started is an incredibly inspiring story. The idea was hatched in a theology class Keh taught four years ago.

"I always tell my students that a theology that is not put into practice is nothing," he says. He was also working at the Ateneo student affairs office.

"After a semester (of) teaching theology, some of my students... said 'Sir, we are very inspired by your class. We'd like to do something.'"

The students did not have money, but they had time, and knowledge to share. They decided on a summer outreach program, *Alay ni Ignacio*, named after Ateneo's patron saint.

The students spent long vacations teaching public school pupils. They were exhilarated by the experience. It gave them a sense of purpose.

Partnership begins

In 2001, though many corporations had extended help to the outreach program, the class still needed some P100,000. Keh e-mailed more than 100 foundations and individuals worldwide, including Microsoft's Bill Gates, asking for help. He got refusals from the few who responded, except one, the Ford Foundation.

Ford, one of the biggest foundations in the world, has an office in Manila.

"They said, 'We'd like to know more about this *Alay ni Ignacio* (Ani),'" Keh says. "So I met with them. They gave us a small amount, and we ran Ani successfully."

Dr. Milwilda "Nene" Guevara, then Ford's representative in the Philippines, says she was very impressed with how the program was run. "It was very systematic," she tells the INQUIRER. "The little amount I gave them went a long way. They also got donors to sponsor (tours) to museums. I thought (the program) could cover more students."

The outreach program started a formal partnership between Ateneo and the Ford Foundation that would help send around 250 students to the best tertiary schools in the Philippines.

Pathways

After that summer, Dr. Guevara asked Ateneo president Fr. Bienvenido Nebres if he and Keh would like to apply for a bigger grant called Pathways to Higher Education.

The three of them worked on a proposal for six months, and sent it to New York.

In 2002, Keh and company received a grant for $400,000 that brought Pathways to the Philippines. Keh became the Ford Foundation's youngest grantee in the country at 22.

Pathway gets the best high school students from public schools and trains them in mathematics, science, English and Christian living. Some of the scholars are chosen when they are on their third year. When possible, parents are involved in livelihood projects and values formation workshops.

Pathways coordinates with universities to get slots in scholarship programs. It currently has around 180 students, with 10 graduating this year.

With offices in Bulacan, South Cotabato, Baguio and Metro Manila, Pathways has some 700 volunteers who prepare scholars for college entrance exams.

Pathways interviews applicants and their parents separately. Staff members also make home visits to see if an applicant really needs help. The student then takes a diagnostic exam.

A qualified applicant is provided college entrance review classes. (Review centers charge P8,000-P15,000 per student). He can take entrance exams in some 15 colleges and universities in Metro Manila. (One exam costs as much as P600.)

Pathways has secured partnerships with the University of the Philippines, Ateneo, De La Salle University, University of Asia & the Pacific, University of Sto. Tomas, Miriam College, St. Scholastica's College, Assumption College, Lyceum of the Philippines, University of the East, Far Eastern University, Centro Escolar University and Philippine Normal University, among others.

The schools waived their entrance fees, and some even provided scholarships for Pathways beneficiaries.

Charity First, a Chinese-Filipino foundation, provides scholars with a monthly stipend of up to P2,000 for transportation, food and other expenses. Pathways has also asked Ateneo alumni for assistance.

Helping others

In return, scholars are asked to teach younger students. They also have to attend regular meetings.

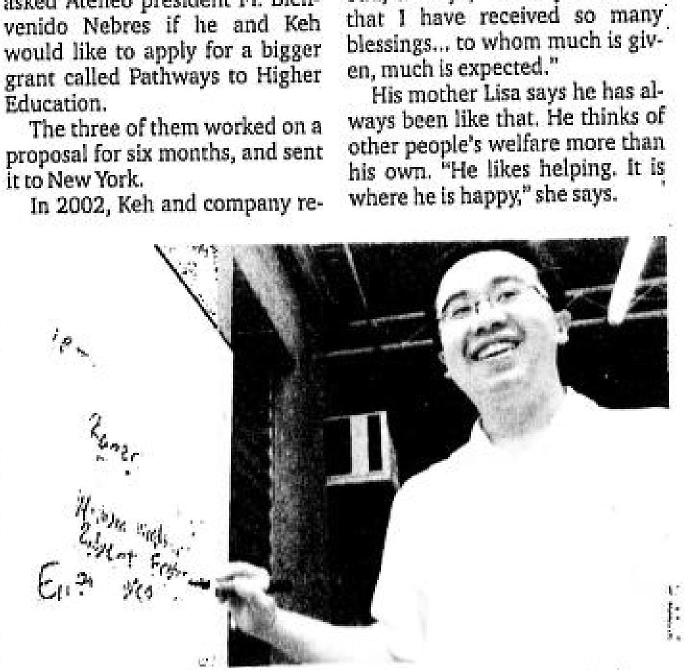
Keh says Pathways has probably raised at least P1 million for its scholars.

Christian Pascua, 17, son of a jeepney driver, says his dream of getting into a reputable university would have remained a dream without Pathways. He is taking BS Accountancy at Centro Escolar University.

Lord Alec Pasion, a chemistry student at Ateneo and the son of a former Filipino contract worker, appears to have been inspired by Keh's dedication to help other Filipinos. Asked if he plans to work abroad after graduation, Pasion says, "I think I'm needed here."

To those who find Keh's work odd, he says, "I always believed that I have received so many blessings... to whom much is given, much is expected."

His mother Lisa says he has always been like that. He thinks of other people's welfare more than his own. "He likes helping. It is where he is happy," she says.



PATHWAYS does not only find scholarships for its beneficiaries but also provides tutoring to prepare them for college entrance examinations.

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Draw	Period Covered	Deadline	Time
1st Draw	February 20-March 15, 2005	March 15, 2005	1:00PM
2nd Draw	March 16-April 15, 2005	April 15, 2005	1:00PM
3rd Draw	April 16-May 15, 2005	May 15, 2005	1:00PM
Grand Draw	February 20-May 15, 2005	May 15 2005	1:00PM

5. Raffle Dates/Prizes/Venue

Draw	Date/Time/Venue	Prizes
1st Draw	March 21, 2005 3pm [illegible]	2 winners of Creative Zen Micro MP3 Player, 2 winners of Nokia 7270, 2 winners of Olympus mju-mini Digital Camera, 1 winner of 30.48cms (12-inch) Apple iBook 2 winners of Nintendo Gameboy DS, 2 winners of Epson Stylus RX510, 1 winner of Epson EMP61 Multimedia Projector
2nd Draw	April 20, 2005 3pm [illegible]	2 winners of Creative Zen Micro MP3 Player, 2 winners of Nokia 7270, 2 winners of Olympus mju-mini Digital Camera, 1 winner of 30.48cms (12-inch) Apple iBook 2 winners of Nintendo Gameboy DS, 2 winners of Epson Stylus RX510, 1 winner of Epson EMP61 Multimedia Projector
3rd Draw	May 20, 2005 3pm Epson Phils. Corp. 36/F Rufino Pacific Tower Ayala Avenue Makati City	2 winners of Creative Zen Micro MP3 Player, 2 winners of Nokia 7270, 2 winners of Olympus mju-mini Digital Camera, 1 winner of 30.48cms (12-inch) Apple iBook 2 winners of Nintendo Gameboy DS, 2 winners of Epson Stylus RX510, 1 winner of Epson EMP61 Multimedia Projector
Grand Draw	May 20, 2005 3pm Epson Phils. Corp. 36/F Rufino Pacific Tower Ayala Avenue Makati City	1 winner of 106.68 cms (42 inch) Panasonic Plasma TV with Home Theater System (Receiver 110 watts x 5 channel Dolby digital DTS Speaker system with sub woofer (5.1) DVD,VCD,CD,MP3 player)

6. A participant can only win once per draw. If a name wins more than once, he/she gets the bigger prize. Non-winning entries per draw are still qualified in the succeeding draws
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	Date	Publication
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2nd Draw	April 28, 2005	Philippine Daily Inquirer
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Ilagan seeks police, Supreme Court help in mall row

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE TUG-O-WAR for revenues from a mall may turn ugly come Monday and the chief executive of Cainta in Rizal is vowing not to give up without a fight.

Cainta Mayor Mon Ilagan said he already ordered policemen to secure the town's action center inside the Sta. Lucia Mall amid reports that Pasig City officials, accompanied by a sheriff, would force town officers out of the shopping center next week.

Not giving up

"We will not give up the mall, unless there is a final order by a final arbiter, (which) in this case is the Supreme Court," Ilagan said on the phone.

"As far as we are concerned, Sta. Lucia stall owners would still pay their taxes (and business permit fees) to Cainta," he said.

In fact, Sta. Lucia and its tenants did just that for the first quarter.

The INQUIRER called Pasig Mayor Vicente "Enteng" Eusebio to comment on what Ilagan said, but an aide said the city mayor was unavailable.

In an earlier interview, however, Eusebio's executive assistant, Roberto Barrero, said a lower court already issued a writ of execution.

This means the court order should already be followed, he said.

This month, Pasig told the mall and its tenants to start paying their taxes and renewing their licenses at the Pasig City Hall. The city also warned them to comply with its order or face possible contempt of court charges.

Ilagan said he hoped there would be no physical confrontation on Monday. Nevertheless, he is prepared for such a scenario.

In case of commotion

"(I will send) five or six policemen in case there is a commotion there. I hope no commotion happens, but if it does, we would be ready," Ilagan said.

Last week, Cainta asked the Supreme Court for more time to appeal the decision of the Court of Appeals, which affirmed last month a tax collection case that Pasig City earlier won against Sta. Lucia and the town.

On Jan. 27, the appellate court denied the town's motion for reconsideration of the lower court's decision.

Cainta had until Feb. 17, 2005, to appeal the decision in a higher court.

Tenants confused

Officials from both local governments had earlier admitted that confusion now reigns in the mall, particularly after Cainta and Pasig each set up a one-stop shop at the commercial complex.

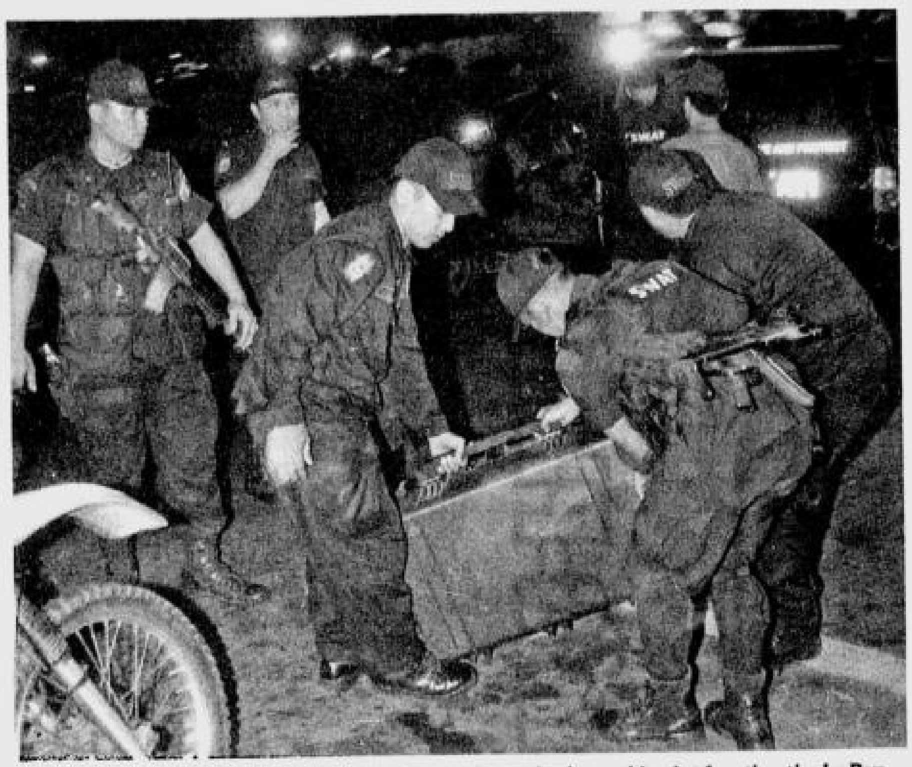
"(Tenants) would really be confused if there are two posts there," Barrero said.

Even the police are confused.

"We do not really know who has jurisdiction here," a Pasig officer said. He and several other Pasig cops are already patrolling inside the mall.

"We are just following orders to be here," he said.

"We will just follow whoever has the court order," said Senior Supt. Leocadio Santiago, Rizal police chief.



BOMB squad members inspect the suspicious suitcase in the parking lot fronting the La Paz Center in Makati City Friday night.
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Razon says bomb suspects' lair found but arrest hangs

By Nancy C. Carvajal

YES, BUT no.

That, in effect, was the latest statement of the police in regard to the arrest of suspects in the deadly Valentine's Day bombing in Makati City.

According to Director Avelino Razon Jr., chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, they have pinpointed the hideout of the suspects but cannot arrest them yet because they had not applied for warrants.

"We have identified the hideout and it is under surveillance, but we can't yet make the arrest because we don't have search and warrant of arrest orders," Razon said when asked on the progress of the case.

To get a warrant, Razon said they needed to first file a case in court against the suspects. And that was posing another problem for the police.

"We have no sufficient evidence yet for us to be able to file a case against the suspects," Razon admitted.

His statement indicated that the testimony of a "conscience-stricken" witness who surfaced last Thursday was not enough to pin the bombing on at least three identified suspects.

Southern Police District Director Chief Supt. Wilfredo Garcia said the walk-in witness had been acting as their eyes and ears.

"He had to go with the surveillance teams because he is the only person who can identify [the suspects] on sight," Garcia said.

The witness had identified the three suspects, and the information he provided jibed with the statements given by the driver and the conductor of the RRCG bus, police said.

The apparent snag in the investigation of the case occurred as separate bomb scares hit Makati and Malabon cities.

A suspicious suitcase found at about 8:30 p.m. Friday in a parking lot in the Makati Central Business District prompted a response from the local bomb squad.

However, the large black case only contained papers which a lawyer later claimed.

Meanwhile, classes at the Malabon City University were interrupted Friday afternoon after a prank caller claimed that a bomb was planted inside the school.

Makati scores in battle against measles

By Irene C. Perez

VICTORIOUS.

Makati has announced that its drive against measles has resulted in cases among children in the city going down by 65 percent in 2004.

There were only 38 measles cases in Makati last year compared to 109 in 2003, according to a Makati Health Department report (MHD).

Preschool and primary school children benefited most from the measles vaccination drive that took health workers door-to-door in the city to make sure that no child escaped the needle.

Some 99,000 children were immunized under the year-round program in support of the Department of Health's "Ligtas Tigdas" campaign, said Dr. Nelia Durante.

Durante, MHD division chief for public health, said children from nine months to seven years old made up the majority of the beneficiaries of the immunization drive.

On top of this, the MHD also covered 29 public and 10 private elementary schools around the city, she said.

According to the World Health Organization, "measles infects 30 to 40 million children each year and kills over 750,000, often from complications related to pneumonia, diarrhea and malnutrition."

The WHO report said that most of the survivors suffered from life-long disabilities like blindness, deafness or brain damage.

Woman trader gunned down

A BUSINESSWOMAN was shot by two unidentified men in Makati City Friday night.

Janelyn Villar of Juan Luna Street, San Lorenzo Village, Makati, was shot in the face at about 9:45 p.m., police said.

She was rushed to the hospital but was declared dead at about 1 a.m.

According to a police report, Villar, 34, was standing in front of the Work and Print office at the corner of Antipolo and Sgt. Fabian Yabut Streets in Barangay Guadalupe Nuevo when the shooting took place.

She was then with her companions, Leah Monica Bravo and Rufina Abad.

Bravo, 26, the victim's secretary, said they were on the street corner when they heard a gunshot. The next thing they saw was Villar sprawled on the pavement.

Frantic, they asked bystanders to help them bring Villar to the Ospital ng Makati for treatment.

Bystanders along the busy street said the suspects fled on board a blue motorcycle.

An empty shell and a deformed slug of .45-cal. pistol were recovered from the area.

Irene C. Perez

Double, triple reasons for joy

By Leila B. Salaverria

MORE than just holding double celebrations, the second annual Festival of Twins and Multiple Births in Manila was marked with the launching of a group that aims to help parents and families cope with multiple births.

Needy families having difficulty raising their multiple-birth children are the main beneficiaries of the Association of Twins and Multiple Births (ATMB), according to its president, Natalie Palanca.

The first of its kind in the Philippines, the ATMB's goal is to raise funds and provide counseling and support to families raising twins and triplets.

ATMB also seeks to help families realize how blessed they are with such births.

"Life is a gift from the Lord," said Palanca, who organized the first-ever Festival of Twins in the country last year. "We should appreciate such gifts like multiple births."

She was inspired to organize the event, held in cooperation with Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and Pro-Life Philippines, by her nine-year-old twin grandchildren Michaila and Jaclyne, who survived a critical birth.

And now that ATMB has been set up, Palanca expects the welfare of multiple-birth children in the country to improve.

Because although twins, triplets and quadruplets are considered novel, there is also a downside to them.

The trouble is not with telling the children apart, but with scrounging for money to finance their needs. Having twins automatically doubles a family's expenses. It triples, if triplets are born, and so on.

The difficulty could be illustrated in the case of the Tulipat family, which has two pairs of female twins born a year apart.

One-year- and 11-month-old Aira and Aiza were born on March 30, 2003, while 11-month old Arabella and Abigail were born on March 28, 2004.

2 pairs of twins

The four girls, who came to the festival in matching pink outfits, complete the brood of nine of parents Angelita and Rolando from Makati.

The 38-year-old Angelita, who is already a grandmother of two, works as a manicurist. Her husband only gets part-time jobs at construction sites because, at 41, he is considered overage.

With their meager earnings and help from in-laws, the Tulipat couple tries to buy milk for their four young girls and pay for the expenses of their children in school, but sometimes they just don't have enough.

"*Minsan nag-a-am na lang sila kasi walang pambili ng gatas* (Sometimes we just feed them water from boiled rice because we can't afford milk)," Angelita said.

She said she was happy with her babies, but admitted that her family needed help. She appealed for assistance from generous souls who could help them raise their two pairs of twins.

"*Sana may mag-sponsor ng pag-aaral nila* (I hope someone would pay for their schooling)," she said.

On the other hand, sisters Ofelia Rupa Deanon and Pepita Rupa Morris have coped well.

Both 70 years old, they were among the oldest, if not the most senior pair at the festival.

The two, who are now widows, grew up in Tacloban, Leyte, as Imelda Marcos' neighbors.

As young girls, they would dress alike, wear the same curly hairstyles and join the same folk dancing activities.

Their fashion sense took different paths when they went to college at the Far Eastern University. They also took different courses, with Ofelia majoring in education and becoming a teacher, and Pepita studying commerce and working at the cashier's office of the Philippine General Hospital.

Despite having lives of their own, the two remained close over the years. They claimed they are still alike in many ways.

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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

SPORTS TV
Compiled by L. Manguiat

GOLF: Asian Tour 2005—Malaysian Open; 1 p.m. (r-8 p.m.); STAR Sports—Find out who captures the title in the second leg of this Asian Tour.

BASKETBALL: NBA—All Star Media Availability and Practices; 9 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); Solar Sports—See the All-Star answer questions and prepare for the mid-season classic.

TENNIS: ABN Amro World Tennis Tournament; 5 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.; STAR Sports—Catch the games from the Netherlands.

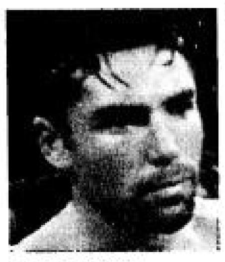
Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Hoya: Pacquiao over Morales

NO LESS than the famous Oscar De La Hoya picks Manny Pacquiao to prevail over Erik Morales in their March 19 showdown at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

"I like Pacquiao," said De La Hoya, who heads the Golden Boy Promotions which promotes former Pacquiao victim and now World Boxing Council super featherweight king Marco Antonio Barrera.

A former world champion in six divisions, De La Hoya announced his choice of the reigning Ring Magazine featherweight Pacquiao as the likely winner over Morales in an interview on Boxingtalk yesterday.


DE LA HOYA

Pacquiao had stopped Barrera in the 11th round of their eagerly awaited encounter in November 2003 with Barrera bouncing back from that setback to inflict a majority decision win over Morales in their third career meeting also in November last year.

Former world bantamweight and featherweight champion Luisito Espinosa suffered yet another humbling setback Saturday, absorbing a third-round knockout loss to Mexican Cristobal Cruz at the Stockton Memorial Civic Auditorium in Stockton, California.

Espinosa, now 37, was knocked down late in the first of the 10-round fight before Cruz put him away for good in the third with a left hook. The Filipino also lost by TKO in his last fight in July last year.

There were earlier reports that De La Hoya, a former Olympic boxing champion, was so impressed by Pacquiao's talent he had wanted to also bring the Filipino champion under his promotional wing.

Meanwhile, Pacquiao's new manager Shelly Finkel announced that Nedal Hussein, an old foe of the Filipino, will be arriving from Australia next week to serve as sparmate of the people's featherweight champion as he steps up his training at the Wild Card gym in Los Angeles.

Pacquiao and Hussein fought on Oct. 14, 2000 with the Filipino southpaw prevailing on a controversial 10th round technical knockout win.

Reportedly, Pacquiao's sparmate Sugar Beltran has been rendered out of commission from the blows he received while sparring with the Filipino hero in the last two weeks.

Another sparmate, IBF super bantam champ Israel Vasquez, was deemed "too small" for Pacquiao, who needs heftier sparmates as he will be moving up in weight against Morales.

De La Hoya's choice of Pacquiao came weeks after Games and Amusements Board boxing division chief Emmanuel Flores had predicted a win for the Filipino by knockout on or before the eighth round, a belief shared by GAB chair Eric Buhain. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

More SEAG golds up in 3 sports

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE PHILIPPINES successfully pushed for the inclusion of more events in three sports and boosted its chances of winning the overall title in the Manila 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

From four, there will now be seven gold medals at stake in lawn tennis, while wushu events will now have 24 gold medals up for grabs from the original 18. Greco-Roman events were also included in wrestling.

Philippine Olympic Committee first vice-president Monico Puentevella had lobbied for the changes during the Southeast Asian forum of the Olympic Council of Asia held in Ho Chi Minh City.

"This was requested to me by our three sports associations," said Puentevella, who represented POC chair Peping Cojuangco in the three-day regional conference, through a text message from Vietnam.

"Vietnam took the lead but other supporters were Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Singapore," added the Bacolod representative.

The proposal will be officially passed in the next federation meeting.

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Golf Power on RPN 9

GOLF Power features an exciting semifinal game in the collegiate division of the recent Toyota Balintawak Beach Volleyball Challenge held at the Cantada Sports Center beach volleyball court in Taguig City. College of St. Benilde I plays Colegio San Juan de Letran. Golf Power is aired at 3 p.m., Sundays on RPN 9. Samsung's Fistorama follows at 4 p.m., also on RPN 9, This week's boxing episode features highlights of fights of former champion Jerry Pahayahay. It is supported by Samsung, Tanduay Rhum, PCSO and Mapecon.

Jr badminton opens

GIANT electronics firm JVC launches its year-long badminton program with the staging of the JVC Open Juniors Championships next month. It will kick off a series of tournaments in various age-groups, culminating in the grand championship among top corporate teams and the cream of the country's badminton crop. Players in the 14-and-under and 10-and-under categories will take center stage from March 29 to April 1 for the qualifier with the tournament proper to run from April 2 to May 29 at SM supermalls in the country. Registration is open. For details, log on to,www.jvcbadminton.com or e-mail jvcbadminton@hotmail.com. For inquiries, call 8942995, 7531286, 7252568 or text 0918-5094845 (Joann), 0921-3142001 (Agnes), 0917-5288970 (Nelson).

NML SP solo champ

NML SP, an entry of Laguna cocker-sportsman Tony Lasala, was the solo champion in the third edition of the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 7-Cock Derby held at Las Piñas Coliseum last Feb. 7 and 9. The event was sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000. Lasala's entry posted a perfect seven points. Against All Odds of Gerry Ramos was runner-up finisher with six wins and one loss. The fourth GCAP 7-Cock Derby fires off on Monday and Wednesday also at Las Piñas Coliseum. For details, call 8731040 and 8743910 or 0926-7450375 (look for Gerry or Julius). Meanwhile, coliseum manager Alex Tobias and Cito Manansala will host a special 3-cock derby on Saturday.

FPI-Smart golf at Midlands

WITH Smart Communications Inc. as tournament sponsor, the Federation of Philippine Industries will hold its third FPI-Smart Golf Tournament on Feb. 24 at the Tagaytay Midlands Golf Club. Grand prizes for all of the four par-3 holes are at stake, including a brand new Toyota Vios. Among the raffle prizes is a round-trip ticket to Amsterdam, donated by KLM. Among the guests of honor is former President Fidel V. Ramos.

Valentine tourney

FOREST Hills Golf and Country Club in Antipolo will be the venue for the 4th Annual Invitational Valentine golf tournament tomorrow. The fundraiser is hosted by Forest Hills Ladies Circle (FHLC). Its main beneficiaries include the Kythe Foundation, which supports cancer-stricken children, and the Philippine General Hospital. The event's major sponsors include Magsaysay Maritime Corp./Gypsy Girl, Fil Estate Corp:, Francis Chua, TACT Imaging Supplies, BBQ Joe, Globe Telecom, Oishi, Jewelmer and George Sison.

A BREEZE for Jayvie Agojo in Cagayan de Oro PDI PHOTO

Agojo coasts to easy win

By Al S. Mendoza

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Jayvie Agojo laughed off the blistering rally of Carmelette Villaroman yesterday, using a gambler's uncanny confidence to win the 42nd Southern Ladies Open running away at Pueblo de Oro here.

Up by 12 points on Villaroman with a 12-under-par total in two days, Agojo tossed in a final 4-under-par 68 to win the fabled event by a whopping seven points on her first try.

The win had never been in doubt at any point of the final round even as Villaroman, the 1999 champion, flung birdies and eagles at Agojo all day long.

Displaying steely nerves very untypical of an 18-year-old, Agojo kept her poise in the face of Villaroman's torrid shooting that when the battle was over, Villaroman's 63—stunning by any stretch of imagination—was still miles away from where Agojo stood.

"No, I was never worried with her game," said Agojo of Villaroman's round. "I knew my first two rounds were more than enough to carry me through. Besides, *napakalaki ko nang tanga pag natalo pa ako* (I'd be the biggest fool losing) with that 12-point margin going to the last round."

Villaroman fired two eagles and six birdies against a lone bogey, a gutsy performance that, under ordinary circumstances, would have easily made her the outright winner.

But earlier rounds of 73-71 pulled her down, a result partly of a pollen-inflicted eye allergy that hounded her on the eve of the tournament.

Fully recovered in the last round, Villaroman made a go of it. Alas, Agojo was prepared and, in the end, had but one answer to it: confidence.

"I made up my mind that I wouldn't collapse," said Agojo. "So, when she eagled No. 5 and I made birdie, I knew my game would hold."

Despite her scorching game, the closest Villaroman got to within Agojo was 7 points—after 15 when Carmelette scored her sixth birdie for the day.

When Villaroman got her second eagle on 17 and Agojo answered with a birdie, the result has become moot and academic.

"I dedicate this victory to my parents and my entire family," said Agojo, the youngest of 10 children. "It's a dream come true as I have now won the three majors, including the Philippine Ladies Open and the DHL-NGAP Open."

Villaroman settled for the Championship A crown, with Anya Tanpinco (68-165) second and Korean Kim Choi Hui (72-161) third.

Governor Mendoza Cup stakes Lancer

A ROYAL Northwoods member pitches onto the green.

A BRAND-NEW Mitsubishi Lancer will be dangled for a hole-in-one in the 3rd Gov. Josie Mendoza Cup golf tourney on Tuesday at the Royal Northwoods Golf Club in Coral na Bato, San Rafael, Bulacan.

Prizes are staked in the event sponsored by Royal Northwoods and Mitsubishi Phils., with all par-3s to have corresponding prizes for aces, according to tournament coordinator Jon Jon Mendoza.

For details, contact Aubrey Cruz at (044) 7660278, (02) 4431656 or 0917-5421866. Tee-off is at 7 and 11 a.m.

Jayvie fulfills dream

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

SOME start to play golf at a very early age. Some begin at 5, others at 10 or 12. But the youngest, I guess, is Tiger Woods. Before he could even walk, Tiger Woods had swung his first club.

Look where he is now.

Tiger Woods, not yet 30, was No. 1 in the world for nearly five years before dropping to No. 2 last year. Only because—this you've got to believe—he reconstructed his swing.

Funny?

Weird is more like it.

After winning 7, 8, 9 majors(?), why still the need for Tiger Woods to repair a swing that has won him all four majors of golf?

Michael Jordan never changed the course of his aerial trips in winning six NBA championship rings with Chicago.

Why Tiger Woods had to redesign a winning swing has remained a puzzle that is as mind-boggling as the Beatles split at the top of their game.

I've come to know that among kids, golf isn't very likable.

Unlike football or basketball or even swimming, maybe, golf doesn't have that built-in magic to attract toddlers and tots alike: Motion.

Take Jayvie Agojo, the country's hottest female player today next only to Jennifer Rosales, the pro.

Before she could turn 10, Jayvie wasn't that hot on golf.

Before she could turn 18, she was winning practically all tournaments she was entered in.

Just months after turning 18, she won the Philippine Ladies Open, the premiere tournament for female par-busters.

Only yesterday, she claimed yet another major crown—the 42nd Southern Ladies Open organized yearly since 1964 by the National Golf Association of the Philippines.

She did it with the ease of a pilot landing his jet for the hundredth time.

In shooting her second six-under-par 66 on Friday, Jayvie said: "I can't believe I'm playing this well. It's like a joke already."

In finishing the 54-hole tournament at 16-under-par at Pueblo de Oro in Cagayan de Oro yesterday to win the fabled event in record fashion, Jayvie said: "What can I say? I just can't believe it. My dream has come true."

That dream was to win the three majors in local women's golf—the Philippine Ladies Open, DHL-NGAP Open and the Southern Ladies Open. Jayvie won the DHL-NGAP Open at Canlubang last year and the Philippine Ladies Open last January at Manila Golf.

And to think that only seven years ago, Jayvie wasn't really serious about golf.

Her mother introduced Jayvie to the game.

"She brought me along each time she hit range balls at Villamor," Jayvie said. "I was maybe 7 or 8. Mom just hit balls for exercise. Sarge Negrido saw me hold a club at Villamor and when I hit the ball, he said I could be a good golfer."

Although Jayvie would soon start winning tournaments, she didn't take the game seriously until she was 12.

"I was already 12 when I decided golf is my game," said Jayvie, who broke Heidi Chua's tournament record of 12-under-par total when Heidi won the 2000 Southern Ladies Open—also at Pueblo de Oro.

I wish Jayvie luck when she flies to Bangkok on Feb. 28 for the Thailand Open March 2-4. After that, she will defend her DHL-NGAP crown, then off anew to Bangkok for the Queen Sirikit Open.

And then next, the big time—America.

"I hope to improve some more and the golf scholarship is a big opportunity," said Jayvie, who starts as a freshman at Pepperdine University in Los Angeles in September. "While there, I also hope to add more inches to my height."

She may be small at barely five feet right now. But for the cache of trophies she has won thus far, in my book, Jayvie Agojo stands 10 feet tall in Philippine golf.

***

FASTBREAK. Cheers to Tracy Locsin and my friend Rolly Uy for winning Class A of the Lam-Am event at Pueblo de Oro. Blonde Garcia and Dennis Mendoza won Class B, beating Hilda Badong and Ronnie Rodriguez. Trini Mok and Rudy Menez ruled Class C over Mely Tan and Roger Tan . . . I am glad to see Vicky Moraza, my friend from Cebu, play in the 42nd Southern Ladies Open. The last time I saw her, Vicky, a dear friend of Cliff Celdran's, was fresh from a visit to her native Spain where she traced her Basque roots. "You lost your notes regarding my trip, but I've forgiven you," Vicky said. Oh, well, I did. I owe you one, Vicky. "Oh, don't mention it," she said. "I was just kidding."

Ladiana back atop Empire King today

By Edwin Villanueva, *Contributor*

EMPIRE King's fans missed Jeffrey Ladiana the last time the champion colt ran—and lost.

They should fret no more because Ladiana will be back to steer the 2004 Horse of the Year today in the Philracom Open Stakes race at the Santa Ana Park.

Under ace rider Pat Dilema a week ago, Empire King failed to flash the kick that powered him to victory in last year's Presidential Gold Cup, landing a tired third in the "Karera Para sa Puso."

With Ladiana slated to be on the saddle again for this afternoon's event, Empire King's fans are optimistic that the Perfect Halo-Carta Nueve progeny will perform better than under Dilema's whip.

But a tough rival in the race to be contested over the seldom-used 1,800-meter distance looms in West Bound, the narrow loser in the PGC who recoiled to snatch the Classic Open, which Empire King skipped.

Aside from being known as a noted stayer, West Bound, to be partnered by Eldy Salvador, happens to be the stablemate of Cover Girl, the highly regarded filly who also humbled Empire King in the Santa Ana Park Championship opening leg.

Although Cover Girl is not joining today's major race, West Bound still got the nod of most tipsters who installed him as their "pam-primera" (first choice) despite the fact that Empire King owns the fastest time of 1:55 flat over the route.

Likewise joining the hunt for the P300,000 first prize courtesy of the sponsoring Philippine Racing Commission under chair Jimmy Dilag are recent SEA Games Cup winner Palm It Off, Sound Offer, Crystal Show and Wind Blown's half sister, Paramount. Dilag will award the prizes to the winner's connections.

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Race 7—1. Empire King 2. West Bound 3. Crystal Show
Race 8—1. Parrot Moe 2. Dynasty 3. Rockwell 4. Jokes Only
Race 9—1. D As In Dixie 2. Plaridel Hero 3. Show-time Lady 4. Strong Red
Race 10—1. Wild Orphan 2. Ravishing Raffy 3. Road Runner 4. Yonder Girl
Race 11—1. Ahoy There 2. Silver Music 3. Fine Offer 4. Bashful Lady
Race 12—1. Bunker Buster/Victoria's Secret 2. Nifty Gritty 3. Native Prince 4. Aya's Star
Race 13—1. Full of Success 2. Carolina Belle 3. Silver Cho Cho 4. Extreme Illusion 5. Honoree 6. Shaolin

Takbo run on

THE 6TH DZMM Takbo Para sa Kalikasan kicks off today at the Quirino Grandstand at the Luneta.

Luisito F. Alejandro, ABS-CBN COO and TV and radio host Korina Sanchez will fire the starting gun at 6 a.m. for over 2,500 runners vying for honors and cash developmental awards totaling P80,000.

Favored to rule the centerpiece 10-K event are national marathon record-holder Eduardo Buenavista, Rene Herrera, and Cresenciano Sabal in the men's division and Mercedita Manipol and Liza Delfin in the women's category. Last year's winners were Crisanto Canillo and Gloria Diaz.

Proceeds will go toward the rehabilitation of the La Mesa Dam watershed.

A total purse of P84,000 is at stake with the men's and women's champion getting P10,000 each.

Invited to grace the occasion are former President Fidel Ramos, Sen. Manny Villar, Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, DENR Sec. Mike Defensor, Sen. Alfredo Lim and Sen. Pia Cayetano. Renato Ang, vice chair of Nation Petroleum Corp., and Oti Villarama, sports marketing manager of Nike, will award the prizes.

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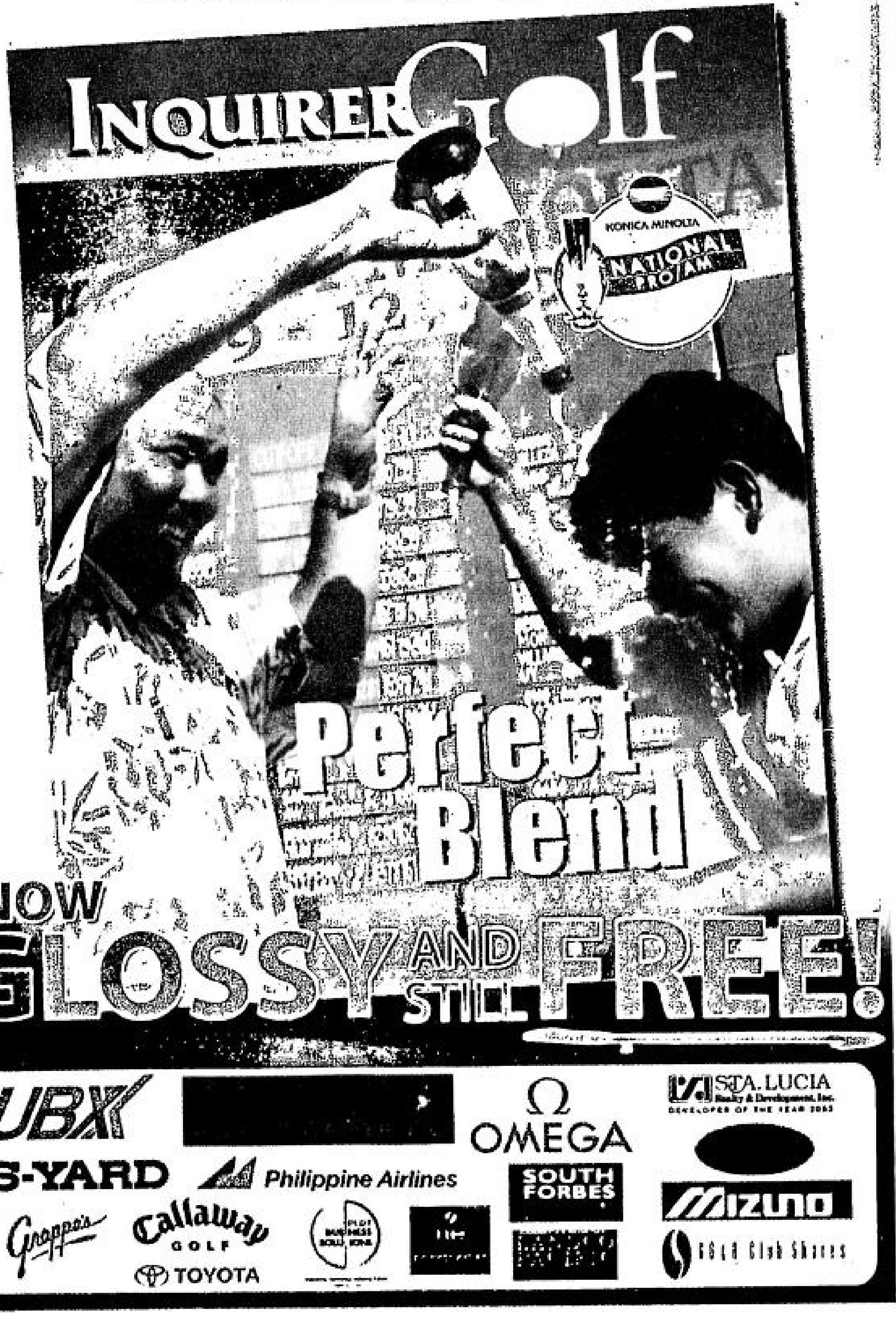

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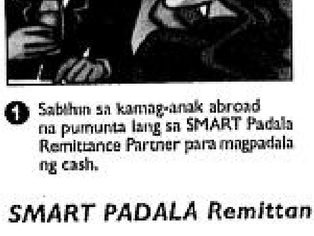

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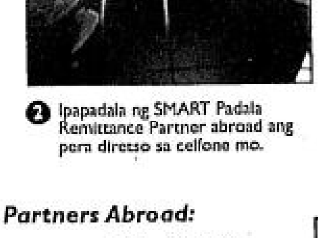

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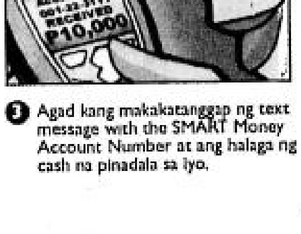

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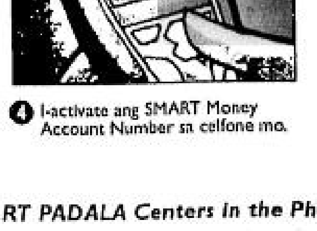

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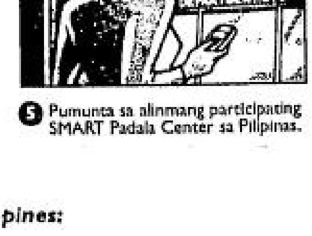

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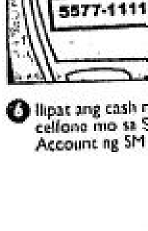

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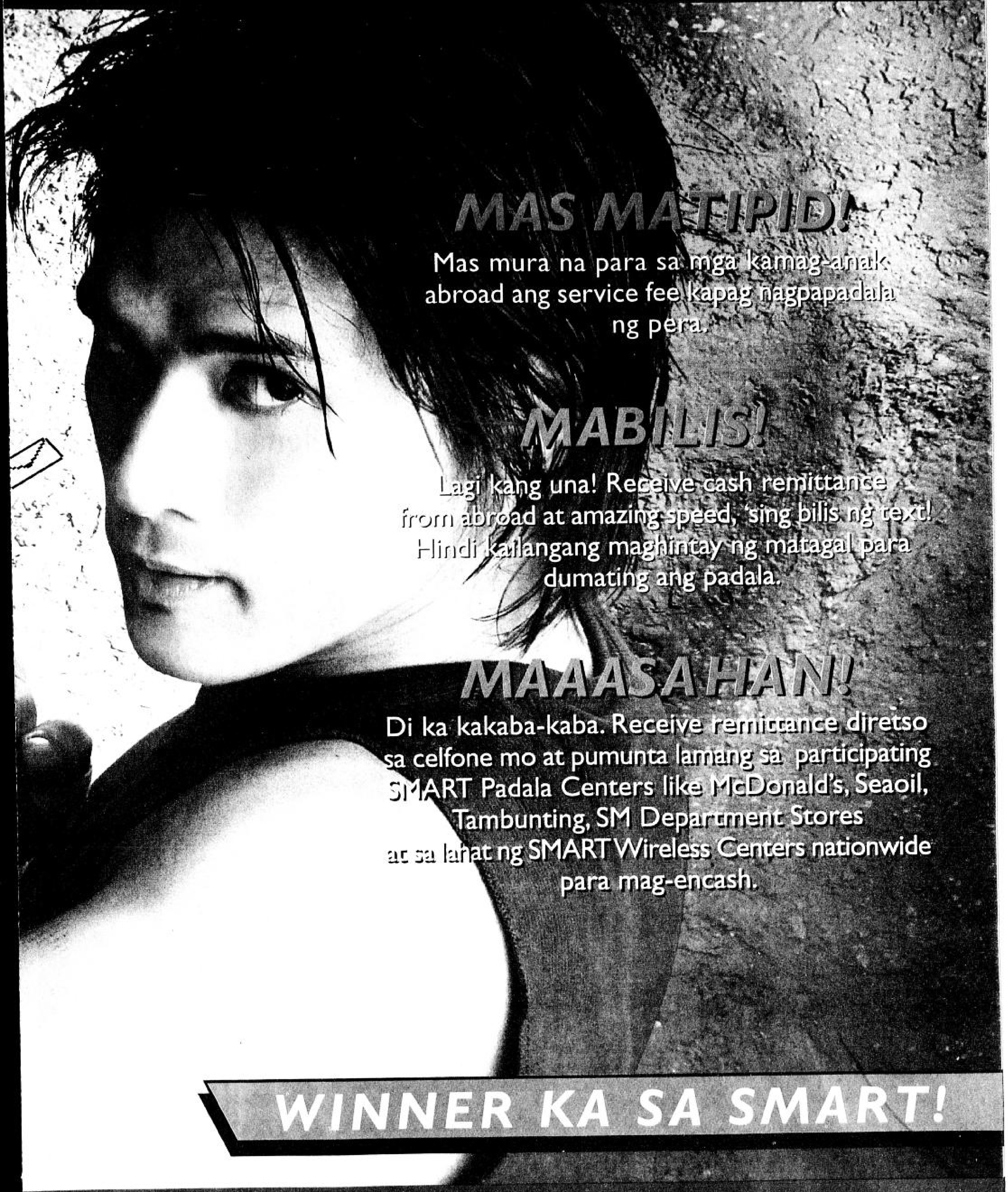

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Campbell wrests Nissan Open lead

LOS ANGELES—Brian Davis waited almost 30 hours after his opening 65 before finally getting to the tee to start his second round in the rain-delayed Nissan Open.

Staring down the 10th fairway late Friday afternoon, the Englishman picked out his line and then heard the siren.

Without even hitting a shot, his day was over.

Davis, Tiger Woods and 70 other players had to return at 7:30 a.m. local time Saturday to finish the second round—or start the second round, as was the case with Davis—and see if they can catch Chad Campbell.

Campbell was among the lucky players at soggy Riviera Country Club.

Equipped with a vastly improved short game, Campbell was virtually flawless in the rain with a 6-under 65 that gave him a three-shot lead over Robert Allenby going into the week.

Campbell was at 9-under 133, the target for the 72 players still on the course, none of whom even got halfway through the round. Kevin Sutherland birdied two of his first four holes and was at 6 under, while Woods was another shot back.

Woods, off to his best start ever at Riviera by opening with a 67, missed a 4-foot eagle putt on the first hole, missed a 10-footer for birdie on No. 3 and kept his sanity with an 8-foot par save on the fourth before darkness set in off Sunset Boulevard and play was suspended.

Allenby made putts at the right time—most for par, some for birdie, one for eagle—for a 67 that gave him good vibes about winning at Riviera again.

Luke Donald finished with 12 straight pars for a 71 and was at 137 with Stephen Leaney and Rocco Mediate, who shot 67s.

A MEMBER of the Golden State Warriors Dunk Squad performs during halftime of the NBA Rookie Challenge. AP

ALL-STAR

Sophomores trip Rookies

MVP ANTHONY

TORONTO—Carmelo Anthony of the Denver Nuggets scored 31 points in front of his home fans to lead the Sophomores to a 133-106 comeback win over the Rookies as the All-Star festivities opened on Friday.

Anthony scored 17 of his points in the second half in the annual game featuring the league's top first year players against the best second-year players.

Chris Bosh of the Toronto Raptors added 26 points for the winners, while the Philadelphia 76ers' Kyle Korver had 21 and LeBron James of the Cleveland Cavaliers added 20.

The Sophomores trailed by as many as nine points late in the first half and 64-58 at the intermission.

Anthony was named the game's MVP. He shot 13-of-18 for the Sophomores, who shot 56 percent (53-of-95) in the game.

Tony Allen and Al Jefferson of the Boston Celtics and the Chicago Bulls' Luol Deng scored 17 points apiece to pace the Rookies, who shot 52 percent (46-of-88).

The NBA's Showcase Saturday features the slam-dunk contest and other skills competition with the All-Star game itself taking place a day later. *Reuters*

Jaidee storms ahead by 6; Que far off

KUALA LUMPUR—Title-holder Thongchai Jaidee of Thailand pulled six shots clear of the chasing pack after the third round of the Carlsberg Malaysian Open on Saturday, poised to defend a title for the first time in his illustrious career.

The Asian number one, who held an overnight two-shot advantage, romped to a five-under-par 67 at Saujana Golf and Country Club as his challengers wilted in sweltering heat in the $1.21-million event jointly sanctioned by the Asian and European tours.

Filipino Angelo Que shot a 71 and was at 214, 17 shots off Jaidee's 197 total.

India's Jyoti Randhawa soared with two eagles for a 65 to move into second place. Irish Padraig Harrington, ranked eighth in the world, birdied his last two holes for a 67 to force his way into the final group tomorrow. He is joint third with Prom Meesawat and Swede Henrik Stenson, seven shots off the lead. Thongchai's 197 matched the 2nd lowest 54-hole total in Asian golf lore. *AFP*

Yelena breaks record

BIRMINGHAM, England—Russian Olympic champion Yelena Isinbayeva broke the world indoor women's pole vault record for the second time within a week on Friday.

Isinbayeva, who set eight world records indoor and outdoor last year, vaulted 4.88 meters on her second attempt at the indoor meet here. Last Saturday she vaulted 4.87m. *Reuters*

Federer takes on towering Ancic in semis

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands—Roger Federer will need to clear a towering obstacle if he is to get his hands on the World Indoor Tournament crown this weekend.

That hurdle happens to be the 1.96 meter tall Mario Ancic and the duo will lock horns for the second time in Saturday's semi-finals, with Federer looking to make amends for his 2002 first-round defeat at Wimbledon.

"I lost to Ancic quite a while ago but I never won a set against him. It will be interesting," said the Basel FC fan.

Federer has already described this week's event as strange because it is one of a handful of tournaments he joined this year in which he is not the defending champion.

Having played at the Ahoy arena for five of the past six years, Federer is determined to add his name to the circular billboard of champions that can be seen around center court.

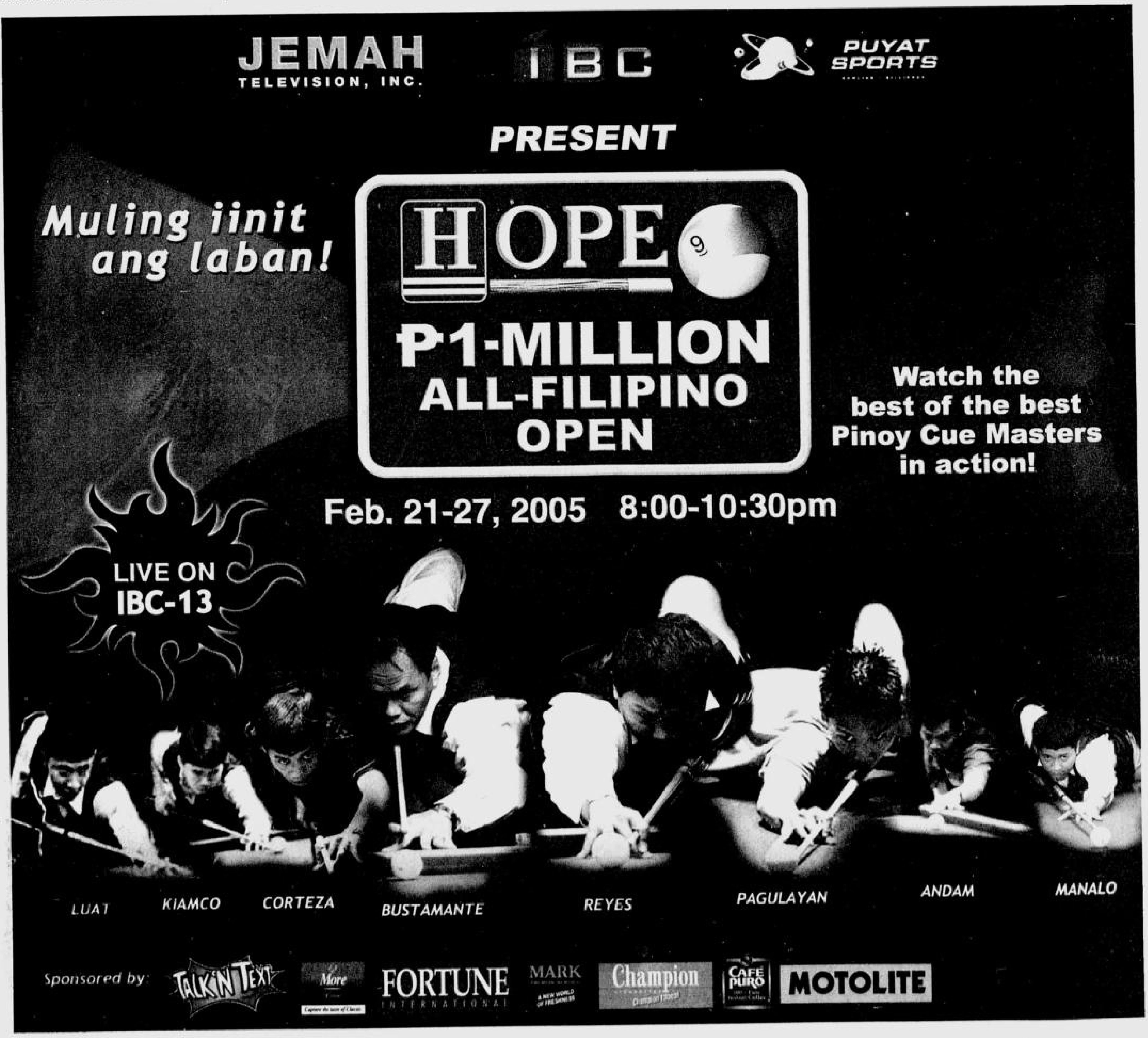
The popular Swiss lost only six times in 2004, the first of those coming in the Rotterdam quarter-finals against British number one Tim Henman.

It must have been a strange experience for a player who went on to capture 11 titles, including three of the four grand slam crowns last year. Impressively, he achieved all that without the services of a coach.

This year, however, the script has not gone according to plan and Federer is not willing to suffer any more slip ups. *Reuters*

CONCEPT ONE

RALLYCROSS CHAMP: Alex Perez of Team DMF bagged the Golden Wheel and Automobile Association of the Philippines Awards for Rallycross 2003 and 2004.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Manalo eyes Asian circuit

MARLON Manalo shoots for no less than a win in the Hope P1-Million All-Filipino Billiards Open to be able to gain entry into the Asian circuit.

Manalo is scheduled to compete in the money-rich US Pro Tour this year, but wants to expose himself to big-time tournaments more to hone his skills.

"People have been telling me that I lack big tournament exposure," Manalo told the INQUIRER in Filipino. "I need the Asian exposure."

The Hope tilt starts tomorrow with the best finisher outside of the three seeded Filipinos earning a slot to the Asian circuit, the lone tour in the region which gives outright entry to the world championships.

Efren "Bata" Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Lee Van Corteza are seeded in the third season of the San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour set in Singapore on March 4-6.

Marlon Bernardino, contributor

KAMISETA CUP: Diego Lorenzo topped the 1.15-meter category of the Kamiseta Cup at the Manila Polo Club yesterday. RYAN LIM

Warriors repulse rivals, gain round

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MARK Borboran is not only a good outside hitter, he is also an inside power.

Showing versatility hardly seen in collegiate basketball, the 6-foot-4 Borboran exploded for 18 points—including a spectacular alley-hoop dunk in heavy traffic—to steer University of the East to a 78-69 victory yesterday over University of Cebu en route to the quarterfinals of the 3rd Collegiate Championships League.

Borboran, who flung a crucial three-pointer to lift the Warriors over the San Beda Lions in the second round, stirred the crowd and pumped up his teammates' energy with his all-around skill all game long.

His shining moment yesterday was a seamless aerial pick of an Earl Saguindel looping pass which he grabbed with both hands and slammed hard to the rim, mocking the defenses thrown by three Webmasters.

That play gave UE a 71-62 lead and pounded UC into submission with still four minutes to play.

UE will next face National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) runner-up University of Perpetual Help for a slot in the semifinals, where top seed and NCAA champ Philippine Christian University is waiting at the wings.

University of the Philippines spoiled the return of Larry Fonacier to the Ateneo fold with a 77-55 rout in the second game. The Maroons also barged into the quarterfinals.

The knockout tournament is sponsored by Petron, Smart Addict, PCSO, Air21, adidas, Glaxo SKF, Wilson and Pascual Laboratories.

First Game

UE 78—Borboran 18, Arellano 13, Palaganas 12, Labagala 9, Saguindel 9, Canizarez 9, Custodio 4, Raymundo 2, Napo 1, Lopez 1.

UC 69—Ortiguesa 17, Abellanosa 11, Saludsod 11, Caulceran 7, Sesante 6, Batobalanos 6, Villaber 5, Abatay 5, Dulay 4, Marranas 0, Calooy 0.

Quarters: 25-22; 40-38; 59-50; 78-69.

Kings going all out for grand slam

BIG GUNS: Caltex Havoline team manager Paul Familara with top Caltex Havoline drivers Jody Coseteng (right) and Oscar Aguilar (left). Coseteng emerged National Touring Car Driver of the Year and Aguilar a top three finisher in the Class B division of the recent Golden Wheel Awards.

WITH two straight championships, Barangay Ginebra is certainly entitled to dream of a rare Philippine Basketball Association grand slam.

"And why not? If we're given this kind of opportunity, we better go for it," said San Miguel Corp. top honcho Henry Cojuangco Friday night at the victory party of the Kings inside the SMC compound.

"It's definitely a challenge for us, the players and the coaching staff. But we have to work hard for it," he added.

But to achieve a feat only three clubs had completed in the league's 30-year history, Cojuangco said that getting the import who could blend perfectly with the Kings is crucial.

Crispa scored the league's first grand slam in 1976 under coach Baby Dalupan and repeated the trick in 1981 through coach Tommy Manotoc. San Miguel Beer broke through in 1989 with Norman Black at the helm, while Tim Cone's Alaska duplicated the feat in 1996.

"Most of the time, the import does 60 to 70 percent of the work load for the team so we have to find a good one," said Cojuangco.

Coach Siot Tanquingcen said the Kings wants to again tap Torraye Braggs in the Reinforced Conference, where no height limit is set, starting on March 4 but the 6-foot-8 bruiser is not available.

US-based player agent Sam Unera said imports from the American leagues cost from $10,000 to $20,000 a month.

"A 6-foot-9 import would do as long as he's willing to do all the dirty work," said Tanquingcen, pointing out that a bigger import could displace either Eric Menk, Romel Adducul or Andy Seigle in the rotation.

June Navarro

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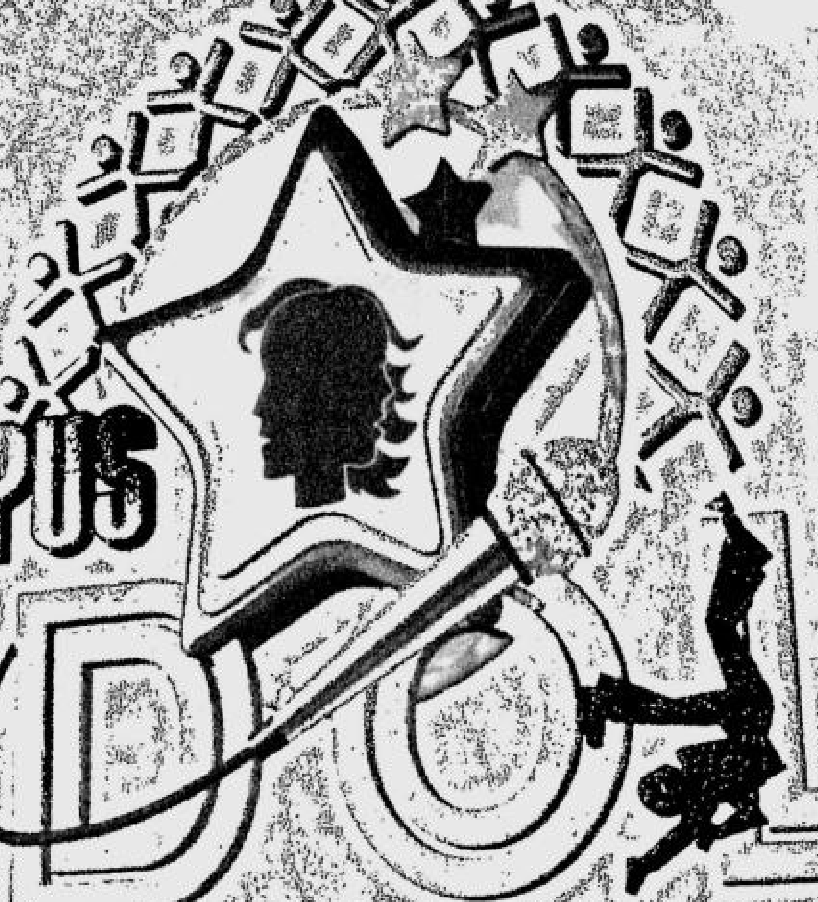

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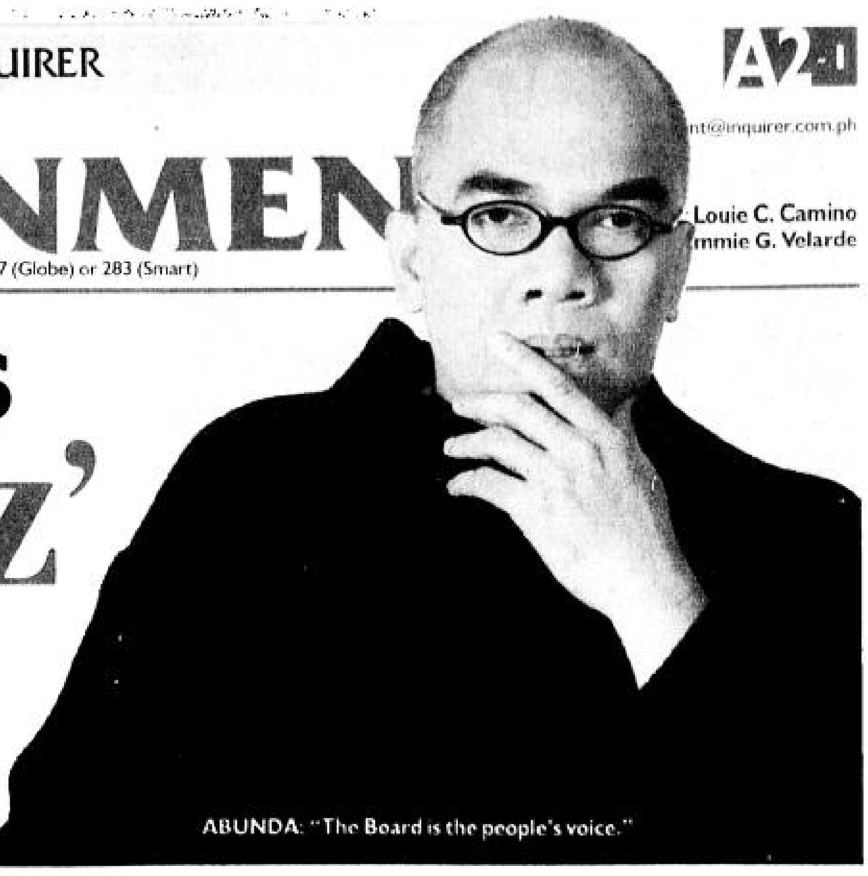
LAGUARDIA: "Very explicit"

MTRCB warns 'The Buzz' on sex video

Children watch that show, says chief censor Marissa Laguardia


ABUNDA: "The Board is the people's voice."

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE MOVIE and Television Review and Classification Board reprimanded the Sunday talk show "The Buzz" in a memorandum for airing a "very explicit" version of the reported sex video of comedienne Ethel Booba and her boyfriend, basketball player Alex Crisano.

In the same memorandum, MTRCB Chair Marissa Laguardia invited Nancy Yabut, executive producer of the ABS-CBN show, to a "dialogue" regarding the incident.

"[They should not have aired too much of it," MTRCB Chair Marissa Laguardia told INQUIRER Entertainment on Friday. "Children are watching [at that hour]."

Although the video, aired in the afternoon of Feb. 16, had long black strips across the images to cover the woman's face and private parts, Laguardia said it was still "very detailed. You could see that the woman in the video is touching herself."

Vow of caution

Yabut sent a reply to Laguardia, assuring the board, "We shall be more careful [henceforth] when using video footage on sensitive matters."

But she admitted in her letter: "A certain video used in the feature story may be in violation of the PG classification for the program. We shall make sure not to use any footage more than necessary for [future reports]."

Ethel, host of the reality TV show "Extra Challenge" on GMA 7, has denied being the woman in the video. She claimed that one of Crisano's former partners made the video to malign her.

"The Buzz" host Boy Abunda pointed out that censorship of feature stories like the sex video report was the responsibility of producers, not of hosts. "We could only comment on it after it's shown," Abunda explained. "I really don't know what happened to that story. If it had been a live interview, *pwede pa akong makialam* (I could have interfered)."

Abunda shares hosting chores with Kris Aquino and Cristy Fermin on "The Buzz."

"We are closely monitoring all show biz talk shows," Laguardia declared. "They should be wholesome at all times."

Laguardia added that she is disappointed with the kind of stories that talk shows come up with these days. "Although they have good hosts, their stories seem to be diminishing in

MTRCB/ A2-7

Concerned managers seek dialogue with networks

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Contributor

TALENT managers have sent a letter to major television networks seeking a dialogue on the proliferation of malicious gossip on show biz talk shows.

In the letter dated Feb. 16, the Professional Artist Managers Inc. (Pami), said the dialogue would "clarify certain matters in relation to the standards and practices by which your staff is guided in handling stories that may be considered unsubstantiated."

The request, signed by Pami chair Ethel A. Ramos and president June Torrejon-Rufino, was sent to ABS-CBN and GMA 7.

Pami members said the situation has "reached a point wherein the level of journalistic ethical standards may be neglected in the eagerness to scoop [competitors]."

Rufino explained the managers's position: "Artists should be respected by the public. These talk shows are not helping at a time when the industry is suffering. Immorality should not be flaunted on TV because it sends the wrong signals to the public."

She is referring to various scandals that broke on said shows, the latest of

STAR'S/ A2-3

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Leo DiCaprio was a sensitive child actor

WHICH male thespian will the 2004 Oscars bless come Feb. 27? Prognosticators favor **Jamie Foxx** for his exceptional portrayal of **Ray Charles** in "Ray." On point of "emotional logic," the Best Actor trophy could go to **Leonardo DiCaprio** for his outstanding performance as **Howard Hughes** in "The Aviator."

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Some film buffs favor the second outcome because they have watched Leo go through a number of drastic changes through the years, from sensitive child actor, to moody teen, to the most popular young male star in the world with "Titanic," then on to his ironic "flop" period afterward, then finally regaining lost ground with "Catch Me If You Can," and now with "The Aviator," his biggest thespic challenge to date.

Suddenly, Leo is all of 30 years old, and the seemingly "eternally youthful" star now embarks on a major new phase in his career, as an adult actor.

This shocks some of his fans, who still hold on to a preternaturally youthful vision of DiCaprio. Well, his edgy portrayal of the spaced-out Hughes in "The Aviator" is calculated to banish that image forever.

It's been quite a roller-coaster ride for Leo, both personally and artistically, so his loyal followers hope that he will be rewarded with his first Best Actor Oscar later this month.

Born in 1974, Leo was named by his parents after none other than Leonardo Da Vinci. As show biz legend has it, Leo's mother, **Irmelin**, was looking at a Da Vinci painting in a museum in Italy when she felt her unborn baby kick, hence her decision to name her son after the Renaissance artist.

His parents' marriage didn't prosper, but Leo was a well-loved child. He also learned to love the German country side when he stayed in Germany with his maternal grandparents.

How did little Leo get into show biz? He first took his cue from his stepbrother, **Adam Starr**, when he started acting on television. Similarly bitten by the bug, Leo did a string of commercials for everything from cereals to toys and bubble gum.

Next, he was a troubled youth on "Lassie," followed by appearances on "The Outsider," "Santa Barbara," and "Parenthood." He quickly gained a reputation for playing "emotionally ill" characters.

Leo got his biggest TV break on "Growing Pains," which gave him terrific thespic training. He then snagged a small role in the 1992 film, "Poison Ivy," which starred **Drew Barrymore**. This led to his winning the much bigger role of Tobias Wolff in "This Boy's Life" (1993), with no less than **Robert De Niro, Ellen Barkin** for his co-stars.

By all accounts, Leo turned in a magnificent performance, with one reviewer even declaring, "In his first major movie, Leonardo DiCaprio carries the film with impressive ease, letting you see the hurt beneath their kid's affected toughness . . . the natural sophistication of his performance anchors the film that is all about unspoken feelings and unnameable desires."

Viewers also responded enthusiastically to the newcomer's gripping portrayal. He was now positioned to be one of Hollywood's hottest new stars.

"Titanic" was the yummy icing on Leo's cake, and "The Aviator" could be his artistic apotheosis—if Oscar smiles at him, instead of the highly-touted Jamie Foxx. What do you think?

'Shaman King'

AT 7:30 p.m. on the Cartoon Network every Monday, "Shaman King" showcases the adventures of a young shaman who can communicate with the world of gods and spirits.

In today's episode, Yoh is in town to compete in the Shaman King tournament, which takes place once every 500 years, and will determine the fate of the world.

Romy Paredes CD

Manna Records recently launched the CD "Romy Posadas Live in Hollywood," featuring the movie of acclaimed keyboard artist **Romy Posadas**. Recorded at the Celebrity Center in Hollywood, the CD has 13 cuts, ranging from Gershwin songs to tunes made popular by jazz legends **Duke Ellington** and **Miles Davis**.

"Romy Posadas Live in Hollywood" is available at Merk's Bar Bistro, Level 3, Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati City. Call 757-4720.

Love Duets

THE NEW CD, "Best of OPM: Love Duets," boasts of some memorable vocal team-ups. They include **Jose Mari Chan** and **Regine Velasquez** singing "Please Be Careful with my Heart; **Gary V** and Regine in "Muli;" "Kung Mawawala Ka" with **Ogie Alcasid** and **Karylle**; "Umagang Kay Ganda" with **Ray-An Fuentes** and **Tillie Moreno**; "Let the Love Begin" with **Kyla** and

LEO/ A2-6

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1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 DREAMBOY
3 SHALL WE DANCE
4 MEET THE FOCKERS

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1 SHALL WE DANCE
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
4 DREAMBOY

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2 CONSTANTINE
3 MEET THE FOCKERS
4 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
5 DREAMBOY
6 WITHOUT A PADDLE
7 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
8 CONSTANTINE

sm city iloilo
1 DREAMBOY
2 RESERVED
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5 CONSTANTINE
6 SHALL WE DANCE
7 RESERVED
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6 CONSTANTINE

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2 CONSTANTINE
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7:25, 10:30
PG-13

3 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
10:55, 1:55, 4:55
7:55, 10:50
PG-13

4 SIDEWAYS
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8:00, 10:40
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2 SIDEWAYS
MTRCB (R - 18)
11:45, 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 10:05 LMF
3 THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
MTRCB (PG - 13)
4 R A Y
MTRCB (PG - 13)
12:30, 3:35, 6:40, 9:45 LMF
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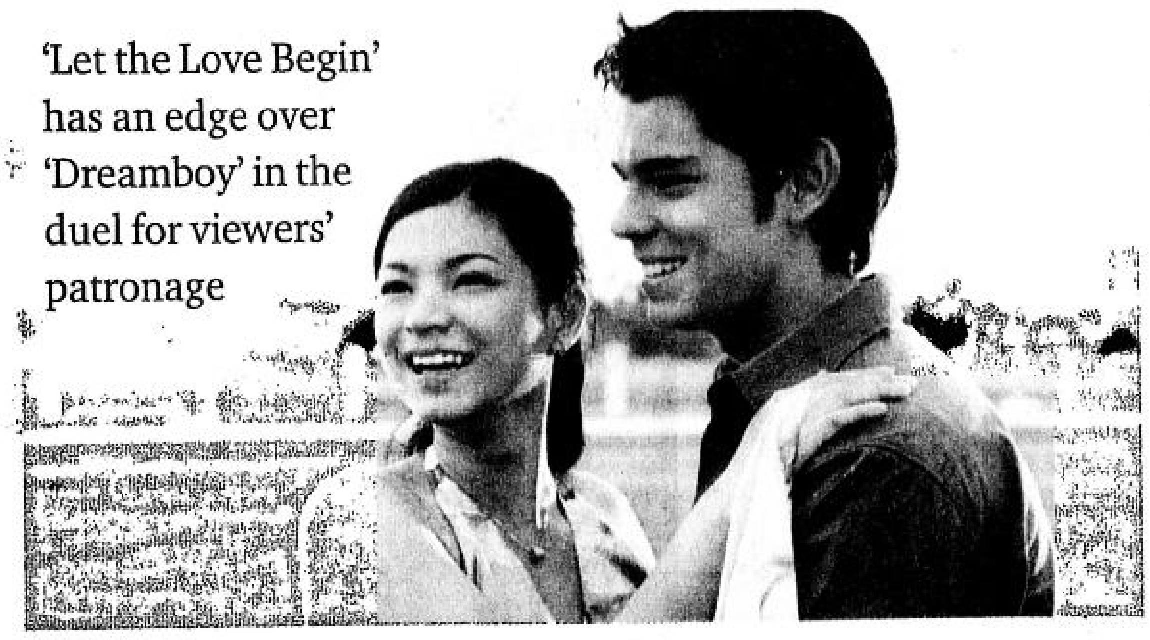
The PHANTOM of the OPERA

'Let the Love Begin' has an edge over 'Dreamboy' in the duel for viewers' patronage



ANGEL LOCSIN and Richard Gutierrez as the ill-matched lovebirds

Two Valentine movies compared

By Nestor U. Torre
(Conclusion)

REVIEW

AS FOR "Let the Love Begin," its setting is more real and less escapist than "Dreamboy's," but it also suffers from casting problems. For one thing, Richard Gutierrez looks too *tisoy*-handsome to be believable as a janitor.

To make things worse, he remains a janitor for more than five years! Not only is he a janitor in school, but he's still a janitor in the office were his former campus sweetheart (Angel Locsin) has already become an executive!

But we're getting ahead of our story. Like we've intimated, this film's milieu is fairly realistic, with "poor" Richard and his *lola* (Gloria Romero) renting a small room to cut down on expenses. Richard works as a janitor at his school so he can study for free at night.

It turns out that he's not just handsome but also really smart, so he ends up being the secret academic "savior" of his rich but rather vapid crush (Angel).

She never gets to find out who he is, so those five years pass before Angel meets Richard again this time at their place of work, where his shocking lack of upward mobility has kept him at janitor level, despite his intelligence and the passage of so many years.

Despite the continuing gap in their status and career prospects, Angel begins to like Richard a whole lot—until a nasty interloper pretends to be her "savior," so she ends up with him instead of with Richard.

Of course, this latest wrinkle in the movie's plot irons out before the final fade, so Angel finally ends up in Richard's arms, where viewers have been willing her to be for almost two hours!

There's method to the movie's maddening romantic complications and convolutions, of course, because they make that final clinch more "*kilig*-worthy" for viewers who believe that rich-poor romances like this can have such a slap-happy ending.

As you can see, both "Dreamboy" and "Let the Love Begin" have their plus and minus factors. All told, however, the more realistic handling and smoother storytelling of "Let the Love Begin" gives it the edge in the two movies' duel for viewers' patronage.

'StarStruck Survivors' known today

SHOW TIME

THE LONG wait is over.

Thousands of StarStruck fans are expected to flock to the Araneta Coliseum today to witness the declaration of the two StarStruck Ultimate Surivors who will win P1 million in cash and P2-million worth of GMA Network management contract.

The Final Four contenders are CJ Muere, LJ Reyes, Mike Tan and Ryza Cenon.

Hosted by Dingdong Dantes and Jolina Magdangal, the event, dubbed "StarStruck Final Judgment," starts at 7 p.m. Special production numbers have been prepared by the quartet and last year's "StarStruck" finalists Mark Herras, Jennylyn Mercado, Rainier Castillo and Yasmien Kurdi.

Special guests are Regine Velasquez, Jaya, Ogie Alcasid, Ruffa Mae Quinto, Karylle, Bearwin Meily, the Sexbomb Girls, the Universal Motion Dancers and Mulawin stars Richard Gutierrez and Angel Locsin.

Admission is free, but spectators need entry tickets which were given away in various GMA programs in the past few days. No more tickets are available today.

Delayed telecast starts at 9:30 p.m. on Channel 7.

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UNTIL recently, GMA7's "StarTalk" was hosted by Butch Francisco, Rosanna Roces and Lolit Solis. Roces has left the program.

Concerned managers seek . . .

From page A2-1

which was the interview conducted on GMA 7's "Star Talk" with erstwhile starlet Olivia Ortiz, who claimed that she lived in for over a decade ago with the now-married actor Aga Muhlach. Ortiz said she got pregnant, but that the child was "aborted" upon the insistence of the Muhlach clan.

Muhlach, irked by the exposé, is reportedly contemplating legal action against the talk show, its producers and the network. According to columnist Nitz Mirales of the tabloid Arriba, the actor's supporters from the advertising industry are also planning to pull out his commercials from ABS-CBN.

Pami clarified that its move was not an "antagonistic" stand against the networks. In fact, the letter commended the stations for "taking great strides in creating and producing more [local] programs this year."

The group instead called its move "a desperate plea for a better treatment of our artists in entertainment talk shows."

Pami members also took the opportunity to remind the networks of "past agreements [that] may have been forgotten due to changes in production staff."

Ambush interviews

Foremost of these "past agreements," Pami pointed out, was a moratorium on ambush interviews.

Two years ago, Pami worked successfully to have such interviews disallowed. The talent managers noted that the practice was once again being resorted to.

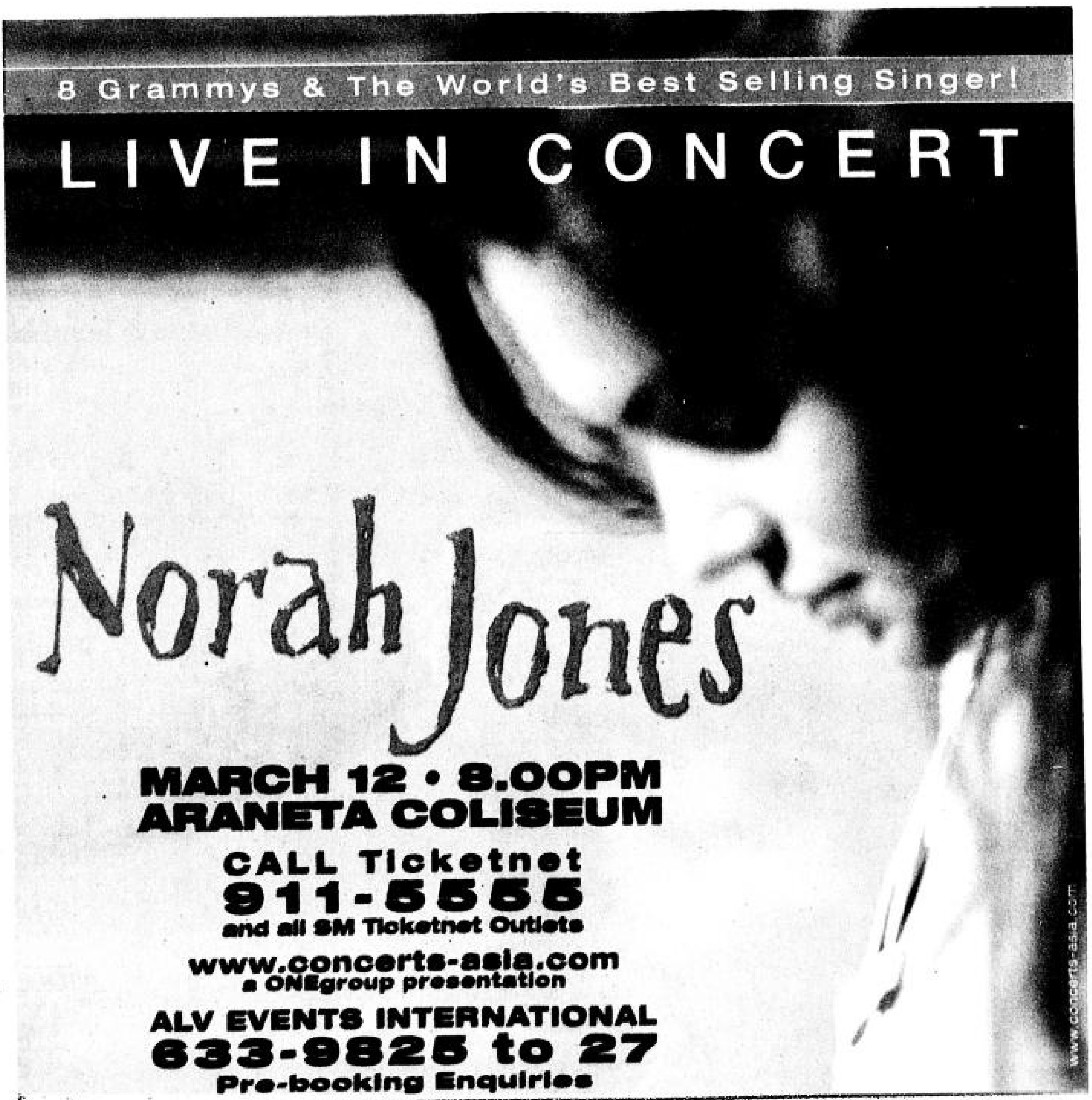
The managers admitted that they were reaching out to the networks as a response to observations made in the two-part INQUIRER Entertainment story, "Presence of Malice," which came out on Feb. 17 and 18.

Pami is looking forward to threshing out the "urgent issues" with network executives "to ensure a continuous relationship that is harmonious and, most importantly, beneficial to the business endeavors of all concerned."

ABS-CBN's response

ABS-CBN said the PAMI members proposal for a dialogue was "welcome."

In a statement from the corporate communications office, the network said: "ABS-CBN firmly adheres to the levels of journalistic ethical standards, whether in our "straight" news shows or in our entertainment news programs. We support any and all moves to protect the welfare of Filipino professional film and television artists, as put forth in the most recent missive from the Professional Artist Managers, Inc."



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Media: Feeling lousy

JUICE

Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon

IT'S THAT time of year again. The time when we in media can't feel too good about ourselves.

Take the Lucy Torres rumor that's lasted an entire year—Feb 2004 to Feb 2005—and hasn't shown signs of dying. The ugly gossip was picked up shamelessly by text messaging and email all right, but it was first foisted on the public by *The Manila Standard*, a broadsheet, and was recently blown out of all proportion by the *"Ek! Channel,"* a show on ABS-CBN.

So as an aside here, let's not be so quick to knock down the tabloids or to browbeat the Internet. Any way you look at it, this one goes right back to the so-called "legitimate media."

It was a daily broadsheet that actually printed the gossip in its political—not showbiz—pages, and wrote it up as a blind item laced with detail: "The embarrassed husband hired a security guard to look after the wife. The guard was instructed to watch discreetly but closely if [sic] the wife shoplifts and [to] pay for the items without creating a fuss."

As for the TV show, here's what Lucy Torres has to say: "What made me really come out to speak about [the rumor] now was *'Ek! Channel'* has consistently been picking up the story and been really playing it out. *May* reenactment *pa* because they said there's really a surveillance tape *raw* ... They really named me already ... And prior to that, they ran already two separate segments for two consecutive Saturdays."

Well, I'm betting that at crunch time the show will not be able to produce the surveillance tape because *there is none.* (Ask Rustan's.) And this early, when the rumor isn't holding up any more, *The Manila Standard* is playing what show biz calls *dedma.*

Meanwhile, in their wake they leave the rest of us in media to share the bad rap.

Celebrity culture

Mind, I'm not knocking the celebrity feature. I'm unarguably smack in the middle of it as editor of YES! magazine. Besides, I agree with **Maureen Orth** (author of *"The Importance of Being Famous"*) who says:

"Celebrity culture, which now extends beyond the arts and sports into politics and business, has become such a huge area of interest with so much monetary and cultural impact that it demands as much investigative reporting as the White House or Wall Street ... Familiar faces, everyone now seems to realize, not only attract large audiences; they provoke sympathy, trust, and identification."

Yup.

Just look at the many *familiar faces* in government today, including right there in the second highest office of the land. Not to mention how many senators these *familiar faces* (Judy Ann Santos, Sharon Cuneta) lodged in office, and how many of these familiar faces (Kris Aquino, Ai-Ai de las Alas) had been commissioned to endorse the President herself.

In these parts, elections—as much as life—can certainly use a little more refinement, or some real commitment at least, or both. But we in media do our own to add to the already primitive setup.

Where, for instance, is the order, sense, fairness—yes, ethics—in our coverage of **Ethel Booba**'s alleged sex video? How can we not gasp at the sight of Channel 2's people mucking around Tondo, among Ethel's family and neighbors, to flash the video in their faces? Is it because Ethel is Channel 7?

Or how do we not blanche at Channel 7 digging up an alleged liaison of **Aga Muhlach** of more than 10 years ago with an alleged paramour who never sued for support over an alleged baby that never came to be? Is it because Aga is Channel 2?

Our two biggest stations—7 and 2—which practically dictate celebrity culture in this country, have just lowered the bar on reportage, yet again.

Checking facts and sources

See how the two stations have just mainstreamed the practice of giving airtime to anybody with any dirt to throw at any celebrity. The more personal, the more explicit, the more hysterical—the better.

Celebrities are sitting ducks.

With a simple phone call or even by text messaging, offbeat, damaged, obsessive loonies of whatever gender and agenda can now hurl the grossest things at any star of their choosing. They fire away, but they hide behind pseudonyms and pixelations.

And this, at a stage when the show has done no work whatsoever on that nastiness. No checking or rechecking of facts, no getting more than one source before going with the story, no examining of motive. Nothing!

Yet in the end, no one—neither the station nor the show nor the hosts nor the unnamed reliable source—is made accountable. But a person who just happens to be a celebrity has been run over.

It's *"bato bato sa langit, ang tamaan 'wag magagalit"*—with which magical lines, everyone feels absolved.

You wonder: There are movie stars hosting these entertainment shows. What makes them think they can't be tomorrow's target? They can't always be moneymakers for their stations—which is the only thing keeping them safe today.

Besides, what does it say for the show biz community when bigger stars air spurious reports about smaller stars that are not their personal friends and protect only those that are? Or when reporters, who are also talent managers, use TV and tabloid to ruin stars who are up against the clients they manage?

It doesn't take too much intelligence to know there's something askew here.

But, wait, the public isn't getting away so easily. The public actually tells the stations, by the programs it watches, what sells. Indeed, it's the public's hunger for entertainment—as much as the networks' lust for profit—that has prodded the top two networks to go for the kill in their entertainment programming.

A quick count says that ABS-CBN airs 29 shows and GMA 7 airs 32—all entertainment-oriented—every single week. And that there is at least one TV program devoted completely to show biz, every single day.

One TV writer is going mad. "I have to produce 15 stories every day!" he says to old friends in the industry. His job is on the line here, he says, so it's *"trabaho lang, walang personalan."* His old friends worry that it's also his way of warning them they can be his next target.

Fifteen stories!

Why, to fill up that quota, the writer will have to make up at least seven stories for sure. Completely make them up—pick up a small incident, reinvent it, exaggerate the detail, construct the punch, conjure the color, rig the quote, throw in the hysteria.

In other words, fictionalize the facts! Turn a non-story into an event! Blur the line between fact and falsehood! Start a fight! Start a rumor!

ETHEL BOOBA and Lucy Torres

What's more, with the stations killing for the ratings, chances are that the bulk of the 15 stories will veer toward the sensational and the gross instead of the solid and the good.

So expect more of Madame Auring putting out her tongue in a kiss with a boy young enough to be her godchild, and more of her talking about being pregnant with twins! And again, more of Mahal explaining her nude pictures away, and more of the diminutive flirt kissing and making up with a life-size boyfriend on cam!

Soon, expect Channels 5 and 13, which are determined to get to the top, to pile up their own entertainment excesses as well. And so we all end up with one maddening, seriously damaged entertainment scene.

Which, of course, shall attract one doddering, seriously conformist MTRCB to think that it's got the right to butt in into everything again.

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Wine as metaphor

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PAUL GIAMATTI and Virginia Madsen

By Gibbs Cadiz

REVIEW

ALEXANDER PAYNE'S new movie, "Sideways," is, among other things, an exploration of failure, unhappiness and middle-age rot.

It has for its hero an oenophile (a connoisseur of fine wines) who also happens to be cranky, depressive, borderline ugly and prone to fitful bouts of self-pity over his divorce and inability to get his novel published.

The wonder of "Sideways" is that out of these dissonant, unappetizing elements emerges a movie that glows with prickly wisdom and off-kilter humanity. It's a story that lavishes sympathy on its characters' frailties while never losing its clear-eyed wit.

But first things first. Despite the raft of awards it has received (mostly from critics' groups) and multiple Oscar nominations, "Sideways" opened in local theaters with virtually no buzz. Which means the movie could be gone in a flash, like Wong Kar-wai's "2046."

This movie will leave you crying, cheering, sparkling. Catch it before it disappears

Do yourself a favor then and catch "Sideways" before it overstays its welcome in our lamentably grubby theater circuit. It's an experience that, like fine wine, will linger in your gut and heart for quite a while.

Buddy road movie

Wine plays a big part in this movie, both as object of delectation and as metaphor. Miles (played by the magnificent Paul Giamatti) gets on the road with his lifelong buddy Jack (Thomas Haden Church), a has-been TV actor, for a week-long jaunt through Central California's Santa Ynez wine valley.

They've booked themselves on endless rounds of wine tasting, golf games and, if Jack had his way, "getting his bone smooched" before he finally gets married for the first time, with Miles as best man.

The two fortysomething buddies couldn't be more different. Miles is coiled, morose, a bundle of nerves ready to pop. Jack is wily, confident, quick on his feet and even quicker with women.

What they share is a deepening realization that they're both wash-ups, broken shadows limping to one last hurrah.

And what starts out as a quirky buddy road movie with a promise of neat redemption for aging losers evolves into an altogether marvelous character study with the entry of two women they meet along the way: Maya (Virginia Madsen), a lovely waitress who has clearly had her share of tribulations, and Stephanie (Sandra Oh), a sensual wine pourer who immediately takes to Jack's panting moves.

Left on their own, Miles and Maya initiate a wary, tentative flirtation. In fits and starts, they uncork a shared passion for the wonders of the grape, and a seeming propensity for bad relationships that have left them both emotionally spent.

Halfway through this, Maya talks wistfully about her love of wine.

"A bottle of wine is a life, constantly evolving and gaining complexity ... until it reaches its peak and begins its inevitable decline," she explains to Miles, looking straight into his eyes.

Miles, who has been rhapsodizing earlier about the virtues of Pinot Noir grapes, stares back in stupefied silence, realizing slowly that this woman is in fact talking about him, expressing long-held affections for a man rendered inarticulate in everything else but his appreciation of Bordeaux or Riesling.

Transcendent moment

As written by Payne and Jim Taylor, the scene coalesces into a transcendent romantic moment. While Miles' peroration on the delicate, fastidious wine he so loves is clearly self-descriptive, Maya's own soul-baring rings sublime in a hard-won kind of way, and it has the effect of subtly recalibrating the tone of the movie.

For the first time, we get the feeling that perhaps, by the grace of this woman, Miles may not be all that lost. Redemption could be at hand for him.

But this isn't a movie that cuts corners. So Miles has to get knocked about in escalating scenes of hilarious despair as he tries to wrestle with his much-deflated sense of self-worth.

When he gets word that the publishing house has decided to pass up on his novel, Miles' self-loathing achieves operatic proportions. "I am a smudge of fingerprint on the window of a skyscraper," he moans to Jack, bringing both his writerly and self-immolating tendencies into painfully funny relief.

Knowing what ultimately happens to him and Jack at the end of this trip is a pleasure that moviegoers must discover for themselves, or the rewards of this movie would be lost.

Some scenes leading up to the last part of the movie are too broadly comic, threatening to unravel the fragile mix of pathos and easygoing charm that lends the movie its snap. But Payne knows how to pull back and let things achieve their own state of grace.

Superb quartet

He gets much help from his superb quartet of performers, who deliver the tightest, smoothest ensemble acting of any film you will see this year (that's counting Mike Nichols' "Closer").

Giamatti, already a great character actor, is thrilling to watch, and by film's end you realize how craven and unjust his Oscar snub for Best Actor is. As the New Yorker's David Denby sees it, in "Sideways," "Giamatti transcends Everyman shmuckiness and attains acting immortality."

Church is perhaps playing an innately familiar character, being an old TV actor himself (from "Wings"). But he is completely in on the joke with his overage fratboy line readings.

Ranged against these stealthy actors, the women rise to the occasion. Madsen, radiant in her maturity, gives Miles—and "Sideways"—a tough-tender ideal figure whose sense of melancholy dignity is enough allure for a wound-up character like Miles to finally breathe free.

Oh, the Korean-Canadian actress married to Payne, has a blissfully even-tempered way with her character, and that gives her one big scene in the movie a grand wallop.

Together, these actors bring the acutely written script and its tragicomic possibilities to sparkling life.

Payne and Taylor's ear for knowing human patter is pitch-perfect, and "Sideways" gets much of its vitality from the way the characters talk to each other—the willful coaxing, the offhand outbursts, the constant push and pull, all very much like real life.

The ending, sweet and heartbreaking, is just about perfect.

Here's to a wonderful film that will leave you cheering, crying and looking at life anew all at the same time.

(E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph)

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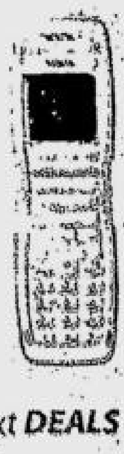

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2	THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA	DREAMBOY	FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX		GUARANTEED SEATS THX CONSTANTINE 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	WITHOUT A PADDLE
3	CONSTANTINE	CONSTANTINE	GUARANTEED SEATS THX CONSTANTINE 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40		GUARANTEED SEATS RAY 2:30, 5:30, 8:30, 11:30	LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4	SIDEWAYS	CONSTANTINE	RAY		GUARANTEED SEATS SIDEWAYS 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	DREAMBOY
5	LET THE LOVE BEGIN		SIDEWAYS		GUARANTEED SEATS THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA 12:50, 3:30, 6:10, 8:50, 11:30	
6			CONSTANTINE			
7			THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA			

	GB1 GREENBELT 1
1	SIDEWAYS 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40
2	CONSTANTINE 11:35, 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:35

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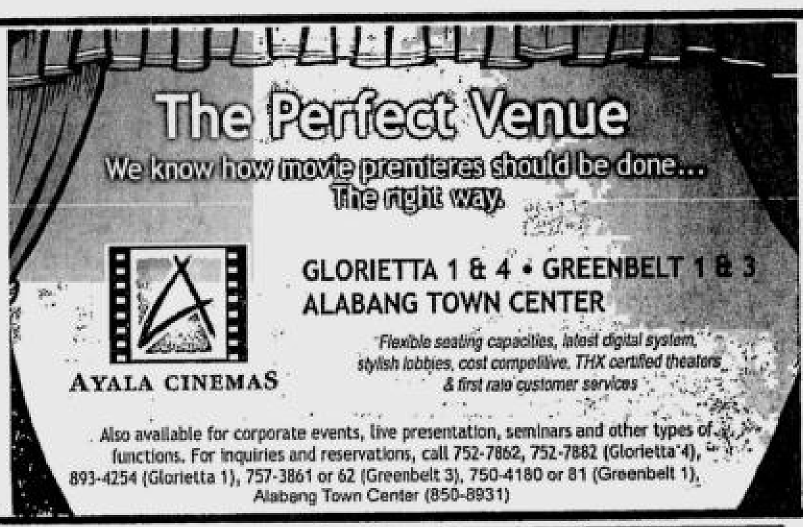
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Feb 19, 11:30AM, 3PM & 6PM
Feb 20, 11:30AM, 2:30PM 4:30PM & 6:30PM
Feb 22, Meet&Greet Glorietta 2 lobby
Glorietta Activity Center

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Feb 25 - 27, 11AM, 3PM & 6PM
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GALLERIA 632-9115/16

1 CONSTANTINE • THX 11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00	6 SIDEWAYS 11:40 2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00
2 CONSTANTINE 10:50 1:30 4:10 6:50 9:30	7 DREAMBOY 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
3 RAY 11:05 1:55 4:45 7:35 10:00	8 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA 1:15 4:10 7:05 10:00
4 5 CHILDREN AND IT 11:10 1:20 3:30 SHALL WE DANCE 5:30 7:00 9:30	9 MEET THE FOCKERS 1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:00
5 LET THE LOVE BEGIN 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	10 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 CONSTANTINE	10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
2 5 CHILDREN AND IT 10:10 12:05 2:00 3:25 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX 5:20 7:40 10:00	5 SIDEWAYS 10:35 1:15 3:55 CONSTANTINE 9:20
3 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA 10:20 1:05 4:00 6:55 9:50	6 LET THE LOVE BEGIN 10:15 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
4 DREAMBOY 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	7 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13 10:20 12:30 2:;50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 5 CHILDREN AND IT 10:50 12:50 2:50 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13 6:40 9:00	5 CONSTANTINE 12:05 2:45 5:25 8:05 10:30
2 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA 12:15 3:15 6:15 9:15	6 DREAMBOY 11:20 1:40 4:00 6:20 8:30 10:30
3 SIDEWAYS 10:40 1:10 3:40 6:20 9:00	7 BATH HOUSE 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
4 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX 11:20 1:45 4:05 6:30 9:00	8 LET THE LOVE BEGIN 12:05 2:45 5:25 8:05 10:30

NOVALICHES 935-3229/31

1 CONSTANTINE 11:50 2:40 5:30 8:25	5 DREAMBOY 10:20 12:50 3:20 5:50 8:25
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:00	6 ALFIE 11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55
3 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA 11:20 2:20 5:20 8:25	7 ELEKTRA 12:30 2:30 4:30 6:30 8:30
4 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX 1:00 3:20 5:50 8:25	8 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55

PIONEER 687-5378

1 CONSTANTINE	3 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
2 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA	4 LET THE LOVE BEGIN

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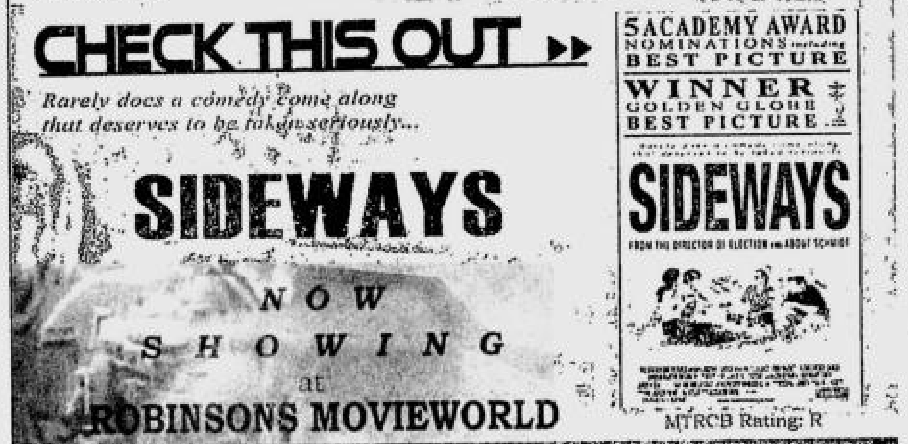
1 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX	1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 DREAMBOY	2 DREAMBOY
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN	3 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
4 ELEKTRA	4 CONSTANTINE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1 CONSTANTINE	1 CONSTANTINE
2 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT	2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 ALFIE	3 FLIGHT OF PHOENIX
4 DREAMBOY	4 DREAMBOY
5 LET THE LOVE BEGIN	5 MEET THE FOCKERS

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 (046) 416-4332	ANGELES (045) 892-2348
1 DREAMBOY	1 CONSTANTINE
2 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13	2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 CONSTANTINE	3 DREAMBOY
4 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX	4 GEORGE AND THE DRAGON
5 LET THE LOVE BEGIN	

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188	STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270
1 ALFIE	1 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE
2 DREAMBOY	2 DREAMBOY
3 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT	3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 CONSTANTINE	4 SHALL WE DANCE
5 LET THE LOVE BEGIN	5 CONSTANTINE
6 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX	6 ALFIE

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1 MEET THE FOCKERS	1 CONSTANTINE
2 CONSTANTINE	2 KUNG FU HUSTLE
3 SHALL WE DANCE	3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE	4 MEET THE FOCKERS
5 DREAMBOY	5 DREAMBOY
6 LET THE LOVE BEGIN	6 SHALL WE DANCE

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DICAPRIO

From ...

From page A2-2

Jerome John Hughes, and "Till My Heartaches End" with Arnee and Jean Wong.

'Survivor: Palau'

THE 10TH season of "Survivor," "Survivor: Palau," starts telecasting tonight at 7 p.m. on Studio 23. Advance word on the new survival test includes rumors of a battle with sharks, the 20 survivors being cast adrift with only maps, and unconfirmed reports of several competitors quitting after the first episode.

The biggest "Survivor" cast in history includes teacher **Wanda Shirk**, hairdresser **Ancha**, fitness counselor **Ashlee Ashby**, marketing man **Jonathan Libby**, business consultant **Gregg Carey**, steel worker **James Miller**, lawyers **Caryn Groedel**, **Jolanda Jones** and **Willard Smith**, sales rep **Stephanie LaGrossa**, bartender **Angie Jakusz**, dolphin trainer **Ian Rosenberger** and graduate student **Kimberly Mullen**.

'Lemony Snicket'

THE CURRENT film, "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events" enjoys strong stellar clout due to the presence of **Jim Carrey** and **Meryl Streep**. They play deliciously idiosyncratic characters who make this film a thespic event.

Story: Following the loss of their parents under mysterious circumstances, three children are taken in by a new guardian, **Count Olaf** (Carrey), who takes them on a path filled with glorious surprises, disastrous setbacks, and the intriguingly unexpected. He's also bound on swindling the kids out of their family fortune.

Streep plays the kids' Aunt Josephine, a paranoid, neurotic widow who's afraid of *everything*.

Aside from playing Count Olaf, Carrey reveals in this production that he's the movies' current master of disguises by portraying other zany characters.

"Lemony Snicket" is based on the first three books in the series of children's stories that knocked Harry Potter off the top spot in the New York Times' children bestseller list three years ago.

'Sa Puso Ko'

JEWELS Production is staging "Sa Puso Ko," a pro-youth, family-oriented and anti-drug advocacy play on Feb. 26 at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. at the cinema theater of Lores Country Plaza, M.L. Quezon Extension, Antipolo City.

Part of the proceeds will go to a proposed Campus-Community Theater and Allied Arts Development Program, and the Antipolo City Barangay Mobile Theater Outreach Project. Call Cecille at 0917-4092498.

Jackson recovering in Neverland

SANTA MARIA, California—Pop legend Michael Jackson was recovering at his Neverland Ranch on Thursday, aides said, after a hospital stay that dramatically interrupted his child molestation trial.

The faded "King of Pop" returned to the sprawling mansion, following a 33-hour stay in a hospital where he was treated for viral flu symptoms.

His illness forced a fresh suspension of his child sex trial Tuesday when he was rushed to the emergency room of a hospital in the California town of Santa Maria after becoming violently ill on his way to court. *AFP*

MTRCB warns The …

From page A2-1

quality and essence," Laguardia stressed. "I guess this is what happens when you're too focused on the competition."

In her letter, Yabut thanked the MTRCB for the warning. "We wish to assure the Board that we will continue to strive, bearing in mind our responsibilities to our viewers, to produce quality programming that has come to be expected of ABS-CBN.

Important voice

"The MTRCB is very important. It is one voice that I listen to," said Abunda. "This agency is the people's voice. It gets a lot of feedback from televiewers. It makes its decision based on those feedbacks. I like the way Chair Laguardia handles things. She is very open to dialogue. She's very interactive, and that is very good."

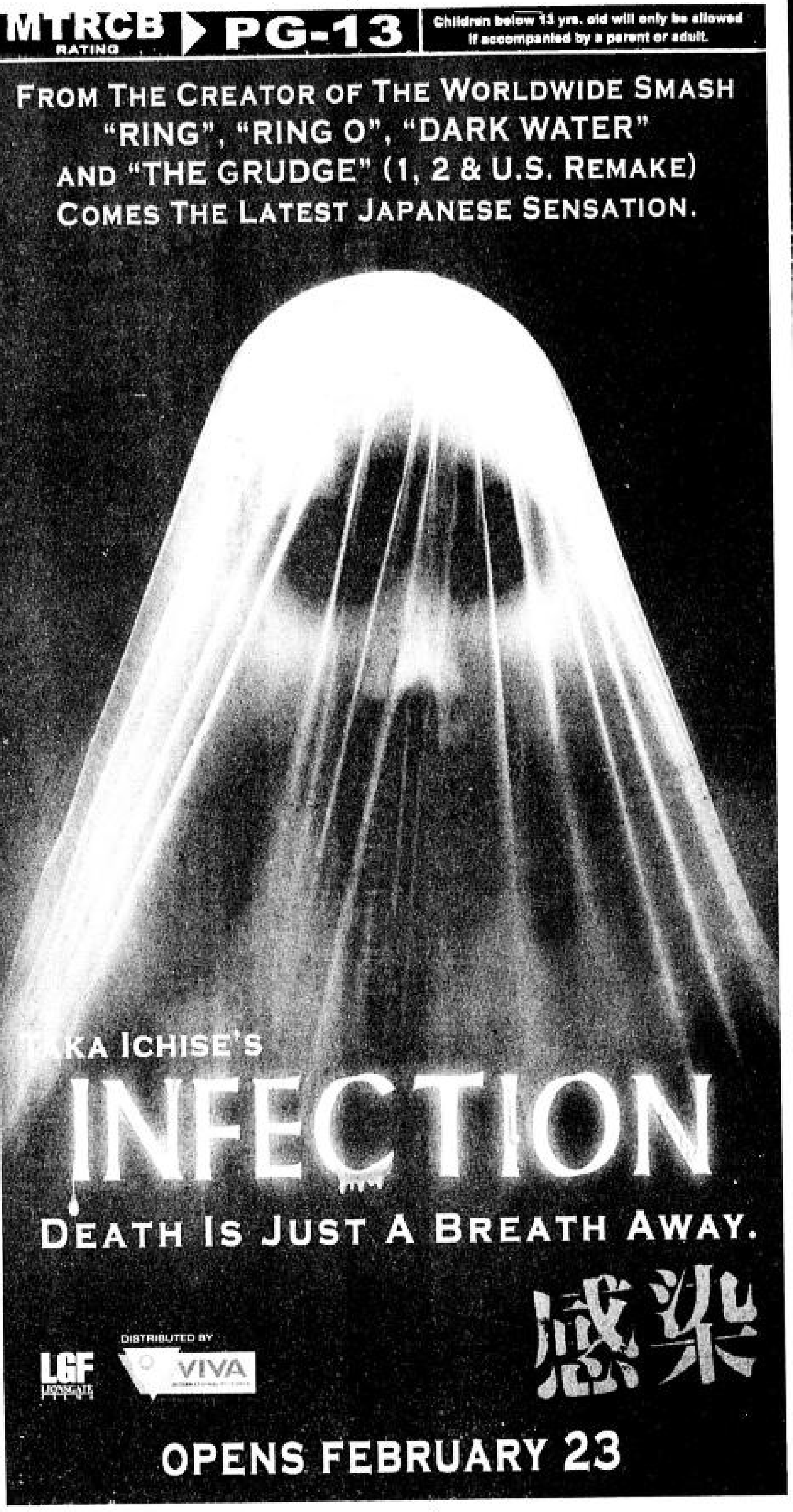
Ethel was earlier slapped with a month-long suspension after the MTRCB complained about the "excessively sexy" outfits she wore on TV. She was prohibited from appearing in any GMA-7 show other than "Extra Challenge" from Feb. 1 to Feb. 28.

The comedian's outfit on "All-Star K" last Jan. 30 was "inappropriate," the Board noted, because the neckline was too low and exposed almost her entire breast.

But last Feb. 13, Ethel appeared live on "S-Files" to talk about her alleged sex video.

Laguardia said that appearance was "justifiable." GMA 7 AVP for legal affairs Dick Perez had argued that Ethel had a legitimate purpose to go on "S-Files."

Perez said: "Against the barrage of negative publicity and derogatory statements heaped on her, [Ethel] had the right to defend herself. It was only right that she appear on television rather than merely issue a statement or do a phone patch. If Ms Booba did not appear on television, she would be perceived as deliberately avoiding [the issue]. The move was not meant to defy the Board or to violate our commitment to the Board."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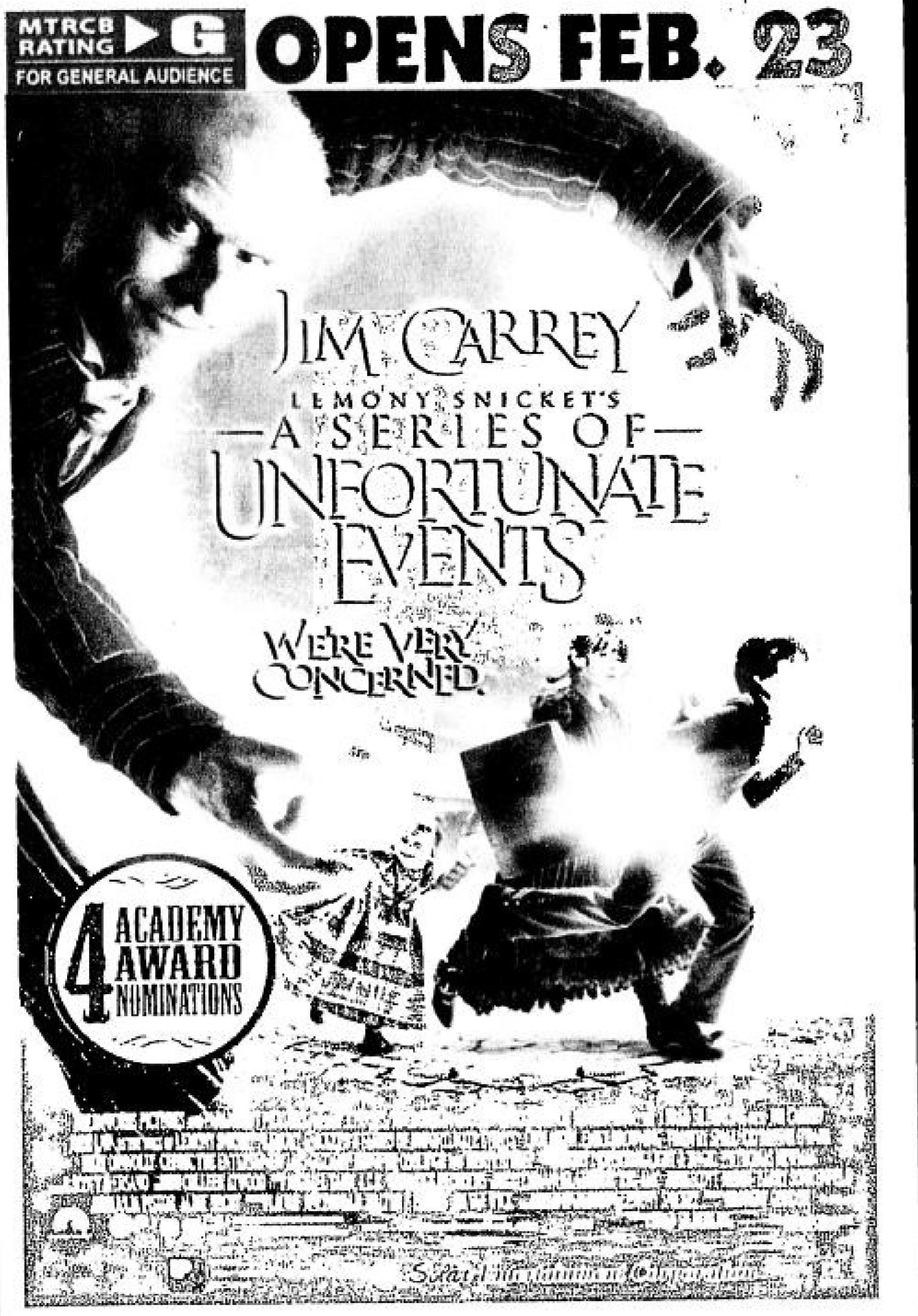
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KEYWORD	TITLE	ARTIST
A6	Kiss Me	Sixpence None The Richer
A7	Bright Lights	Billy Crawford
A8	Rich Girl	Gwen Stefani
A9	What U Waiting For	Gwen Stefani
A10	Over	Lindsay Lohan

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KEYWORD	TITLE	ARTIST
A11	Talk About Our Love	Brandy
A12	Let Me Love You	Mario
A13	Na Nana Na	Nelly
A14	Only You	Ashanti
A15	Caught Up	Usher
A16	Lose My Breath	Destiny's Child
A17	Wonderful	Ja Rule

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KEYWORD	TITLE	ARTIST
A1	Boulevard of Broken Dreams	Green Day
A2	Only One	Yellowcard
A3	Me Against the World	Simple Plan
A4	This Is Your Life	Switchfoot
A5	American Idiot	Green Day

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KEYWORD	TITLE	ARTIST
A18	Bulong	Kitchie Nadal
A19	These Days	Bamboo
A20	Nahuhulog	Sandwich
A21	Tulad Ng Dati	The Dawn
A22	Bakit Nga Ba	The Mongols

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Miss Asean 2005 not just a beauty tilt

JHEZARIE Javier

By Armin Adina

WITH all the beauty pageants taking place throughout the year all over the world, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations believes there is room for one more.

Asean's Business and Advisory Council has come up with "Miss Asean 2005" in an effort to revive the region's business and tourism potentials. The group of business and industry leaders from the 10-member countries is searching for the most effective spokesperson for the goal. The search which will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on March 19.

Tourism Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano and Jose Concepcion Jr., chair of Asean-BAC and East Asia Business Council Philippines, recently met representatives from the pageant's organizing committee led by Tantowi Yahya of Indonesia to discuss the pageant's staging at the posh Oasis restaurant in Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Cubao.

The pageant will gather representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thaailand and Vietnam. Delegates from India, China, Japan, Korea and Australia will participate as guest-candidates.

RP's bet

Binibining Pilipinas-International 2003 Jhezarie Javier will represent the Philippines. The Hotel and Restaurant Management graduate of the University of Santo Tomas was hand-picked by Binibining Pilipinas Charities Inc. founder Madam Stella Marquez de Araneta.

"She's smart and beautiful but truly down to earth. I have high hopes that she will win," Araneta said of Javier.

Javier herself vowed, "I will do my best to bring home the first Miss Asean crown."

During the local pageant in 2003, the 5-foot-9 charmer was proclaimed Miss Photogenic, Miss Philippine Airlines Sunniest Personality and Miss Myra 300 E Inner Beauty.

Javier left on Tuesday for a three-day exposure trip to Indonesia. She will return to the country to further study the history, culture, and business climate of the countries in the region before her official send-off on March 5.

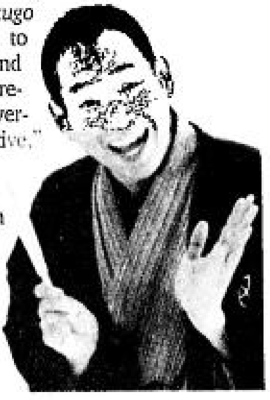
Aside from presenting beautiful women, the search will also showcase the region's artists. The Manila Philharmonic Orchestra will perform at the pageant, along with pop stars and dancers from Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. An Indonesian couturier will provide the evening gowns for the pageant contestants.

Sit-down Japanese comedy in Manila

"*RAKUGO*" is Japanese sit-down comedy that is like American stand-up comedy: One performer does a comic monologue onstage or acts out a funny story.

The Embassy of Japan and the Japan Foundation in Manila will present one such performance tomorrow and on Tuesday at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium of the RCBC Plaza, Makati City.

Dating back to the 17th century, *rakugo* reflects traditional concepts and values that remain meaningful today.



"We brought *rakugo* performances to Manila in 2003 and 2004 and public response was overwhelmingly positive," said Hiroaki Uesugi, assistant director of the Japan Foundation, Manila. "This year, we're holding the performance in a bigger place to accommodate a bigger audience. We invite everyone to this rare, highly enjoyable event."

Literally, *rakugo* translates to "a story with a witty ending." The performer sits on a small mattress throughout the performance. He wears a traditional Japanese kimono and is usually equipped with a fan and a hand cloth which he skillfully employs in his storytelling.

Special performance houses for rakugo called "yose" are still found in Japan.

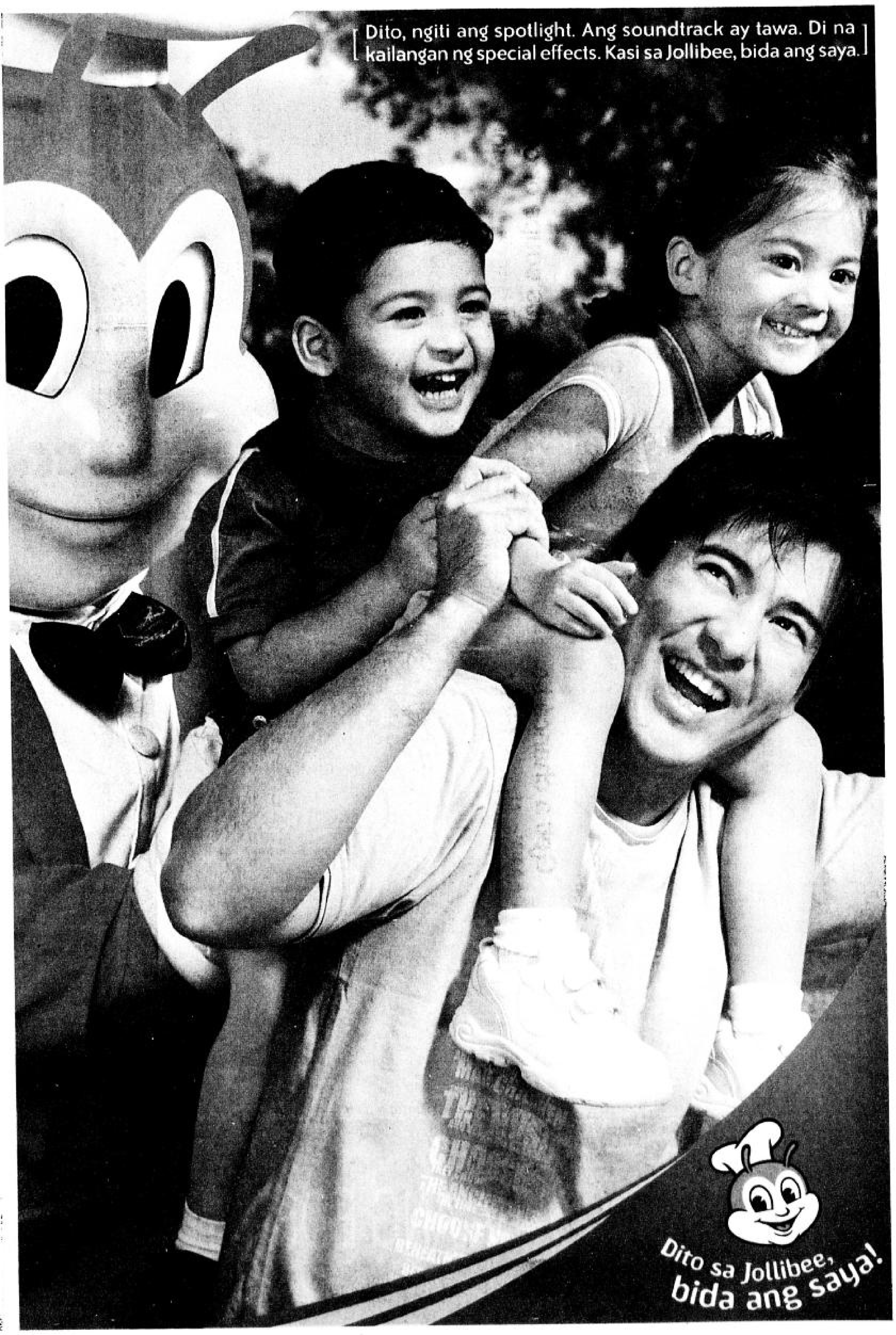
This year's Manila performances star Kaishi Katsura, one of the major English *rakugo* performers in Japan today. Although there are classic *rakugo* stories handed down through generations, Katsura creates his own original material.

He has been performing since 1994. Like other *rakugo* artists, he underwent years of apprenticeship before being pronounced worthy of performing. The genre requires rigid training and discipline.

Katsura performed two years ago in Manila and Cebu. He has had 180 performances worldwide.

For schedules, call the Japan Information and Cultural Center, tel. 551-7814.

WOMAN OF THE YEAR
Australian actress Cate Blanchett has two more honors to add to her Oscar nomination. The "Aviator" star was named Most Stylish Actress and Woman of the Year at the Elle Style Awards this week in London. Fellow Australian Kylie Minogue won the Lifetime Achievement Award.


Dito, ngiti ang spotlight. Ang soundtrack ay tawa. Di na kailangan ng special effects. Kasi sa Jollibee, bida ang saya.
Dito sa Jollibee, bida ang saya!

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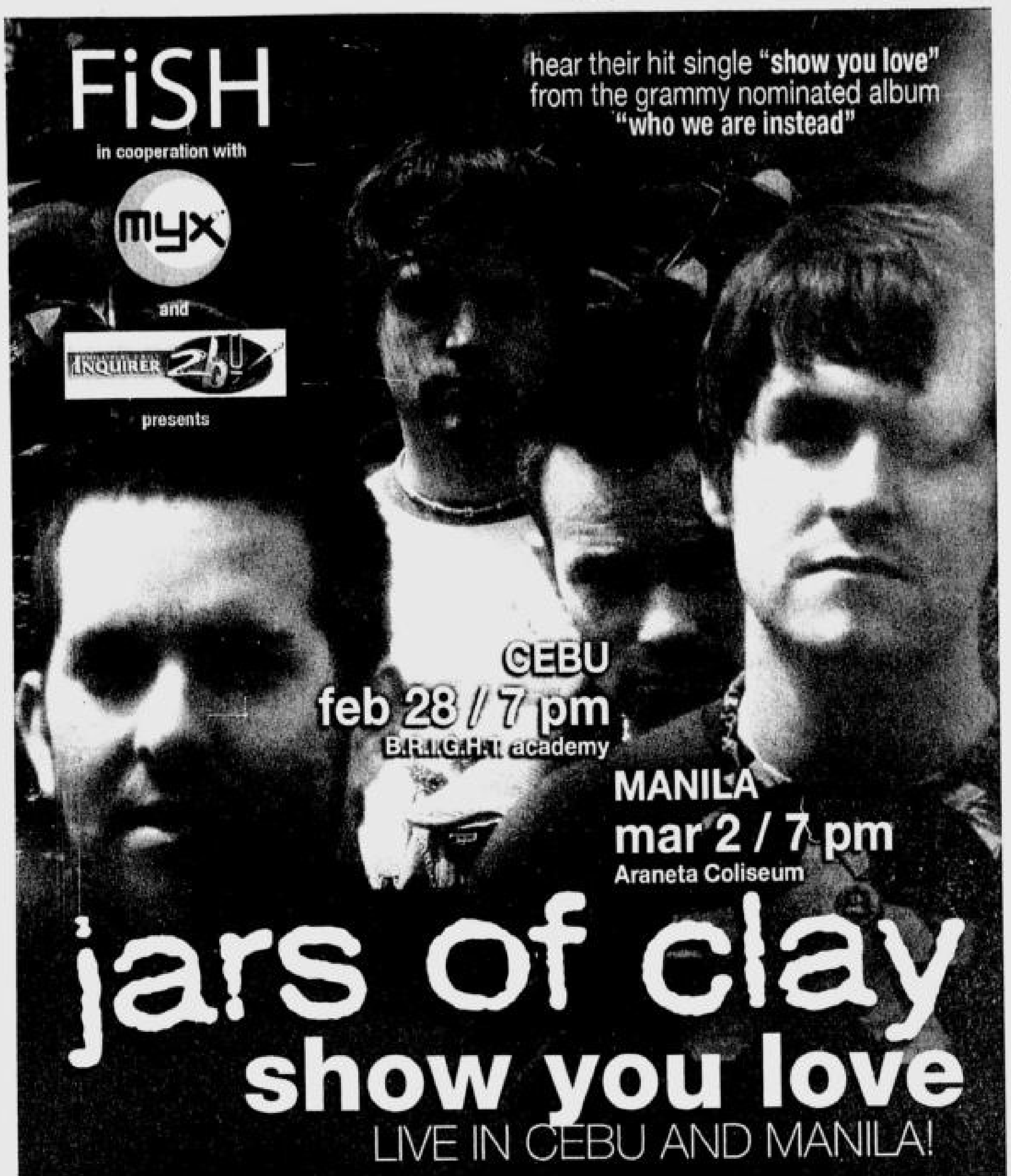

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Super summer in sight

THE VIVA HotBabes are set to heat up the grand launch of Smart Buddy M-Club, the first-ever mobile privilege club for men, on Feb. 25, 6 p.m., at Metrowalk in Ortigas. M-Club offers members discounts and freebies from over a hundred partner shops, bars and restaurants.

***

A SUPER summer is in sight. The Nestea Beach House Party Series 2005 starts on Feb. 25, 7 p.m., at The Rooftop, Power Plant Mall in Makati City. Featured artists are Bamboo and Ciudad. DJ Wendell Garcia vows to keep the crowds dancing. Of course there will also be a fashion show featuring the hottest summer outfits, modeled by students from participating schools. Tickets to the series are available at your favorite hangouts in school and at the gate of The Rooftop, Power Plant Mall, Makati City.

***

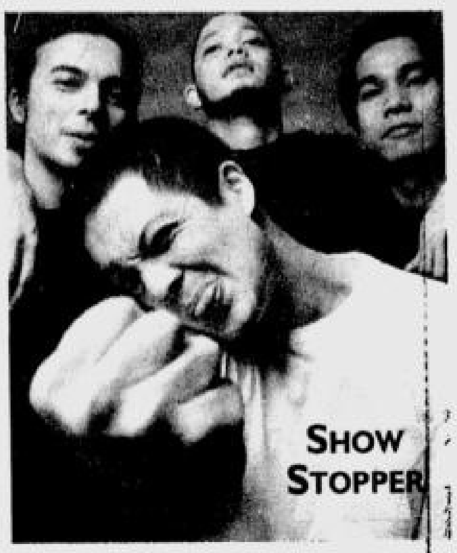
GARY Valenciano will perform at the Waterfront Hotel in Cebu City on March 10, at the Corpus Christi Gym in Cagayan de Oro on March 12, the New CYO Gym, Holy Cross of Davao College on March 16, and Lagao Gym in General Santos City on March 18. On April 1, he will be at the Leyte National High School Gym in Tacloban, and at the Panaad Stadium in Bacolod City on April 9.

***

ZIRKOH Comedy Bar on Timog Avenue is celebrating its first anniversary the whole month long. Featured artists on Tuesday are Teri Onor, Wally B and Jose, with Jimmy Santos and Ruby Rodriguez. Wednesday, Kyla performs with Keith Martin and Ya Chang. Thursday, Ai Ai de las Alas stars in a dance concert, "Ai Wanna Dance!" with Streetboys, Maneouvres and Kids at Work. Allan K takes center stage on Friday. On Feb. 26, Regine Velasquez topbills the show, with guests Luke Mijares and Gabby Eigenmann.

***

"ROAD Rocks: Winston On Tour 2205" goes to Virgin Cafe on Feb. 25 with Retrospect band, to Ratsky-Malate with Intense on Feb. 26, to Arkdia with First Circle on March 4, and to D'Site Property in Cagayan de Oro with Freestyle on March 18.



BAMBOO BAND

AI-AI DELAS ALAS

VIVA HOT BABES

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Sunday, February 20, 2005

WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY 10 pm after Big News

American Idol
Watch it with America!

ABC ibc tayo
ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2		SCQ Reload		The Buzz					Rated K		TV Patrol			ABS-CBN Comedy Original			Kaya Mo Ba 'To		
NBN		Value Vision		Kabataan News Network	Family Rosary Crusade	Concert at the Park		Kamao		Family Rosary Crusade	The Working President	Battle Of Royale		To Be Announced					Unlimited Diving
ABC 5		Ringside		PBA										Viva Cine Idols				ABC Onstage	
GMA 7	Gigsters	Love To Love			S-Files				Naks	Mel & Joey Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho	All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office				
RPN 9		Golf Power	Auto Extreme	Fistorama		Road Trip	Simple Life	Smackdown		Medical Investigation		CSI: Miami						The Working President	Ugnayan
IBC 13		MMTLBA		MMTLBA		Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		Legacy Of Hero		V League				Iyo Ang Katarungan	EL SHADDAI		
Solar	Tough Enough	WWE Aftermath		WWE Smackdown				WWE Velocity		WWE Bottomline		WWE Aftermath		Pride FC				Slamball	
Nickelodeon	Girls In Love	Kenan & Kel	As Told By Ginger	Tao Shu The Warrior Boy	Lat, The Kampung Boy	The Adventures Of Tenali Raman	1, 2, 3	Danny Phantom	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	Fairly Odd Parents	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Romeo	Girls In Love	Kenan & Kel	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys
MYX		Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Hit Chart				Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Presents		My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Dateline		Saturday Night Live		Fame		NBC Nightly News	What I Like About You	The O.C.		Girls Behaving Badly	Simple Life 2	Who Wants To Marry My Dad		Nip/Tuck		Dateline	
Cinema One				Kiss Mo Ko				Kuya				Ang Tisoy Kong Pogi				Di Na Natuto Sorry Na Pwede Ba?			
Studio 23				BYK 101	Spotlight TV	Hotwire	Top Gear	Nazis: The Hidden Files				Two & A Half Men	Just Shoot Me	Will & Grace	F.	Digital Tour		Fastlane	
AXN		Bet Your Life				Global Adventure		WRC 2005		Maximum Exposure		Fear Factor (Season IV)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)		David Blaine: Frozen In Time		Totally Outrageous	
Star World		Outback Jack		Manhunt		Business Week Asia	Travel Asia	Wild Card		Malcolm In The Middle	The Kumars At No. 42	Oprah Prime Time		The 2005 BAFTA Awards		Absolutely Fabulous	Absolutely Fabulous	Malcolm In The Middle	Oprah Prime Time
CNN	Design 360	World News	International Correspondents	World News	The Daily Show John Stewart, Global Edition	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	Talk Asia	World News	Main Sail	World News	The Daily Show John Stewart, Global Edition	Global Challenges	CNN Business Traveller	Talk Asia	World Sport
National Geographic		Interpol Investigates		Samsung Best Of The Week		Human Edge	Crittercam Wetlands Adventure	Science Times		Air Crash Investigation		Megastructures		Seconds From Disaster		Interpol Investigates		Samsung Best Of The Week	
Solar Sports		Boxing: Morales vs Barrera (replay)						Greatest Game: '91 NBA All-Star Game				NBA Jam L013	Greatest Game: '07 NBA All-Star Game				Greatest Game: '93 NBA All-Star Game		
Lifestyle Network	Date With Design	Ground Rules	Outer Spaces	Your Private Island	Breathing Room	Back To Basics	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Ciao America W/ Mario Batali	Food Network Special		E! Entertainment Special		Manhattan				Planet Parent	You're Invited
HBO			Two Weeks Notice (3:20PM)			Cat In The Hat (5:05PM)			Babe			The Lord Of The Rings: The Two Towers						About Schmidt (10:55PM)	
Star Movies			Hackers			Barbershop (5:15PM)				Swimfan			Opening Night	The Human Stain			The Gathering (10:45PM)		
Cartoon Network	What's New Scooby Doo?	The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	Swat Kats	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	X-Men Evolution	Justice League	Atomic Betty	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Megas XLR	What's New Scooby Doo?	The Looney Tunes Show		Cartoon Cartoon Show	Power Rangers Ninja Storm	Zoids: Fuzors	Time Squad	Samurai Jack	Justice League
ESPN				Atlantic Coast Conf. Duke vs. Virginia Tech				Afc/Nfc Pro Bowl						ABN Amro World Tennis Tour Final				FA Cup '04/05 NewCastle United vs. Chelsea	
Disney Channel	Potatoes And Dragons	Sabrina's Secret Life	The Legend Of Tarzan	Wicked Science	Viva S Club	Martin Mystery/ That's So Raven/ Dave The Barbarian/Phil Of The Future				Mr. Bean	Treasure Planet			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	According To Jim	America's Funniest Home Video	Ferngully: The Last Rainforest	
Cinemax				Combustion			Hook (5:45PM)					Maverick				Clockstoppers (10:05PM)			Black Point (11:35PM)
Hallmark Channel		Dynasty: Behind The Sex, Greed, Manipulation				Wrinkle In Time - Part 1				Wrinkle In Time - Part 2				Trail To Hope Rose			Burn (10:35PM)		
Discovery Channel		Science Mysteries		American Chopper		Rides		Extreme Engineering		Hour Asia				D-Day 6.6.44				Power Zone	
MTV Philippines			Wildboyz	High Scool Stories	Boiling Point	Pimp My Ride	Be Seen @ MTV	MTV Lokal	MTV Alive	Faking the Video	I Want A Famous Face	Rich Girls	Newlyweds	Asia Aid Red Carpet	2005 MTV Asia Awards				
Sports Plus	Nascar Gatorade 150's Daytona Int'l Speedway						Inside the PGA	World Poker Tour ep 6 Connecticut				Italian Serie A		Got A Grip		Nissan Open Day3			
EWTN	St. Catherine Of Sienna	Angelus (3:15PM)	Pope Pius XII	Children's Rosary	Faith Factory	The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	Octavia Dies	EWTN Bookmark	A Christian Pilgrimage To Jordan	EWTN Global Showcase		The Way To Follow Jesus	St. Matthew	Sunday Mass			Life Is Worth Living	Mother Angelica Live Classics	

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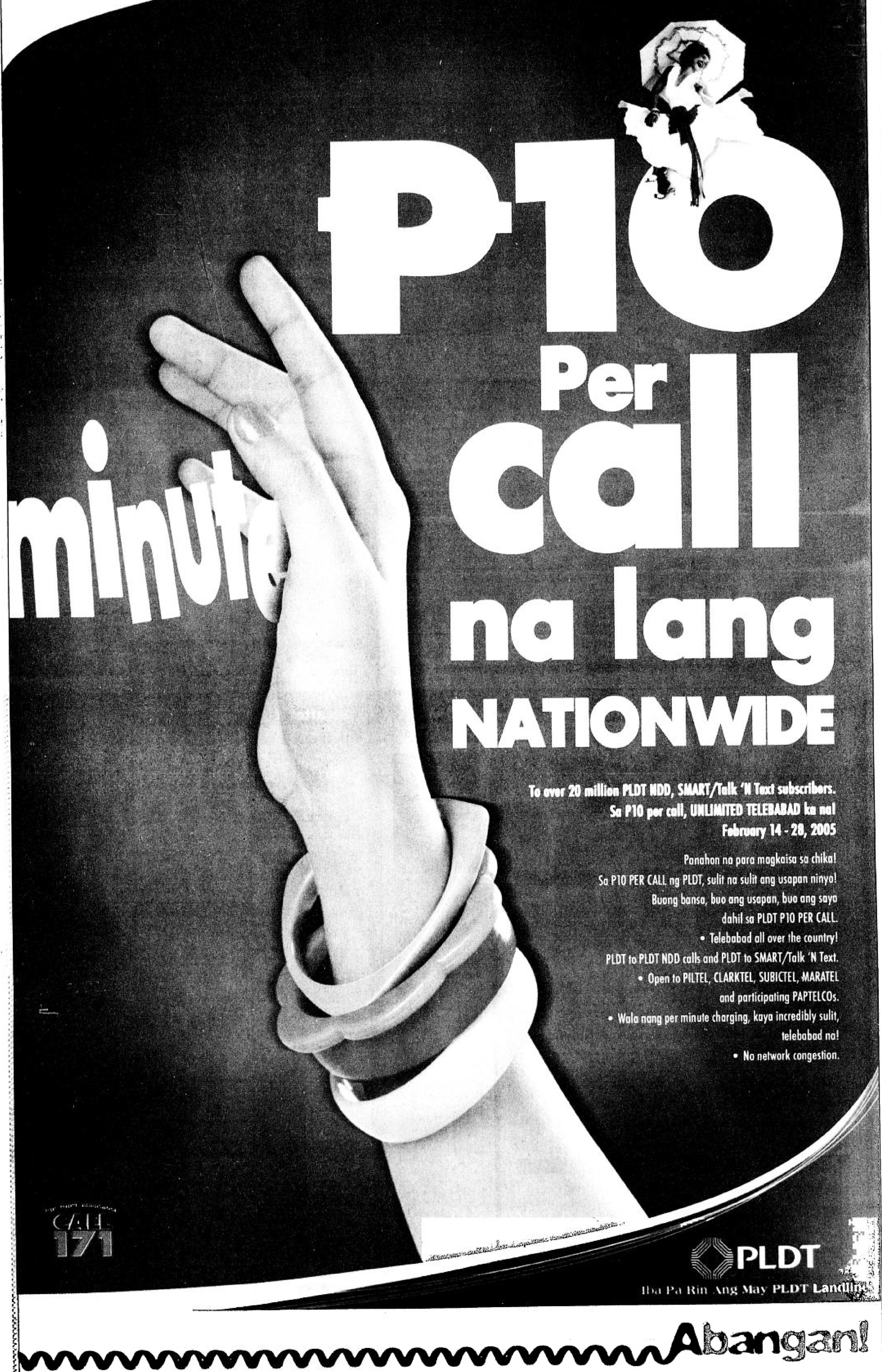

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Sangkatutak Na Saya Na May Kasunod Pa!

For Dennis Quaid, 50, the roles are 'getting better'

DENNIS QUAID

BERLIN—American actor Dennis Quaid said he doesn't feel like an "old fart" even though he plays an aging salesman facing unemployment in a biting comedy that drew laughs and cheers at the Berlin Film Festival this week.

"In Good Company," director Paul Weitz's dark look at US-style capitalism and seemingly arbitrary corporate layoffs had a well-received international premiere in Berlin after its December launch in the United States.

"I really don't feel like an 'old fart' in life, to tell you the truth," said Quaid, who mockingly calls himself that in the film, about a 51-year-old sales executive played by Quaid who is demoted in a corporate takeover by a whiz-kid half his age.

"But I did feel like an 'old fart' when I got off the plane here yesterday," he added with a laugh.

To make matters worse, his arrogant 26-year-old boss starts an affair with his daughter and begins firing the sales staff, with Quaid's job hanging in the balance. It is ambitious yuppie without a clue versus an experienced but slowing baby boomer.

"As far as Hollywood goes, the parts just keep getting better for me," Quaid said, noting that in contrast to his film role, being beyond 50 has helped—not hurt—his career.

Modern fairy tale

"But in the corporate world this is going on all the time," he added. "Companies buy up other companies and the people getting fired first are those with the experience. With their salaries, the bottom line makes them the easiest to fire."

Quaid ends up getting his corner office job back when his young rival is fired in another corporate shakeup, but Weitz admits his film's happy ending is a fantasy.

"It's supposed to be a modern fairy tale," Weitz said. "Dennis gets his job back because of the whim of arbitrary things happening. But you don't know if his company might get bought again a few months later and he'll be out of a job."

The film struck a chord in Germany, where the unemployment rate has soared above 10 percent to its highest levels in 60 years and American-style capitalism is widely rejected. Films mocking America are often a big hit with Berlinale audiences."Wal Mart-isation' of America and the world," said Weitz. "The issue is: 'Is Wal Mart going to take over the world?' I wanted to explore the effects on people that mergers and losing jobs have."

The film fest winds up today. *Reuters*

OVERHEARD THIS WEEK

JENNIFER BEALS

"To begrudge someone else their love of another person because of gender seems to me absolutely absurd."—Jennifer Beals, who stars on "The L Word," Showtime's sexy melodrama about lesbian life in Los Angeles.

***

"Everything is wonderful. It was a beautiful night."—Rapper Kid Rock, after his arrest for assaulting a disc jockey at a strip club in Nashville, Tennessee.

***

"I think my own genre is dead. I don't really think that there is anyone in the modern pop business who I feel I want to spar with."—George Michael, saying he's closing a chapter in his two-decade pop music career with his new autobiographical film, "George Michael: A Different Story."

***

"It's just the pot at the end of the rainbow."—Carol Channing, 84, telling AP Radio about life as a newlywed. Channing married her junior high school sweetheart nearly two years ago. *AP*

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

RAY PG13 1:15,4:15,7:15,10:20	CONSTANTINE PG13 1:30,4:10,6:50,9:50	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA PG13 1:30,4:20,7:10,10:00
SIDEWAYS R18 12:15,2:45,5:15,7:45,10:10	SHALL WE DANCE GP 1:00,3:15,5:30,7:45,10:00	CONSTANTINE PG13 11:50,2:30,5:10,7:50,10:30

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BEST ACTOR - Jamie Foxx
BEST DIRECTOR - Taylor Hackford
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PAUL GIAMATTI
THOMAS HADEN CHURCH
VIRGINIA MADSEN
SANDRA OH
SIDEWAYS
OPENS FEBRUARY 16
5 ACADEMY AWARD® NOMINATIONS
including:
BEST PICTURE - BEST DIRECTOR
BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR - BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Araneta Center
Entertainment Guide

CINEMA SCHEDULES

Gateway CINEPLEX*10 The First and Only Real Cineplex in the Philippines
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CONSTANTINE 12:00 / 2:30 / 5:00 / 7:30 / 10:00
SIDEWAYS 12:45 / 3:30 / 6:15 / 9:00
RAY - LIFE STORY OF RAY CHARLES 12:30 / 3:20 / 6:10 / 9:00
5 CHILDREN & IT 12:15 / 2:25 / 4:35
MEET THE FOCKERS 12:00 / 2:15 / 4:30 / 6:45 / 9:00
LET THE LOVE BEGIN 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
DREAM BOY 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
PHANTOM OF THE OPERA 1:00 / 3:50 / 6:40 / 9:30
SHALL WE DANCE 12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30
VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT 6:50 / 9:30

ALI MALL CINEMAS

① LET THE LOVE BEGIN 11:00 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20
② CONSTANTINE 11:00 / 1:15 / 3:45 / 6:15 / 8:45
③ PHANTOM OF THE OPERA 11:50 / 2:40 / 5:30 / 8:20
④ FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX 12:05 / 2:10 / 4:15 / 6:20 / 8:25
⑤ DREAM BOY 11:00 / 1:20 / 3:40 / 6:00 / 8:20

ALL FEATURES AND DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

CENTER EVENTS

GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10 *The Aviator* By Invitation Only Premiere February 21
ARANETA COLISEUM *Fire Dance Spectacular February 22 to 27*
Jars of Clay: Show You Love March 2
GATEWAY MALL performance by *Mishka Adams February 25*
Rustan's Department Store Lifestyle & Home Exhibit extended up to February 20
COLISEUM CIRCLE *Cool Jazz music every Fridays & Saturdays*
SHOPWISE STRIP *Acoustic Performances at Gloria Jeans February 19, 23 & 26*

NOW OPEN

LE COEUR DE FRANCE *Upper Ground Floor, Ali Mall*
RUSTAN'S DEPT. STORE *Upper Ground Floor, Level 2 & 3, Gateway Mall*
ITALIANNI'S, CAFE HAVANA & CAFE ADRIATICO *Ground Floor, Gateway Mall*

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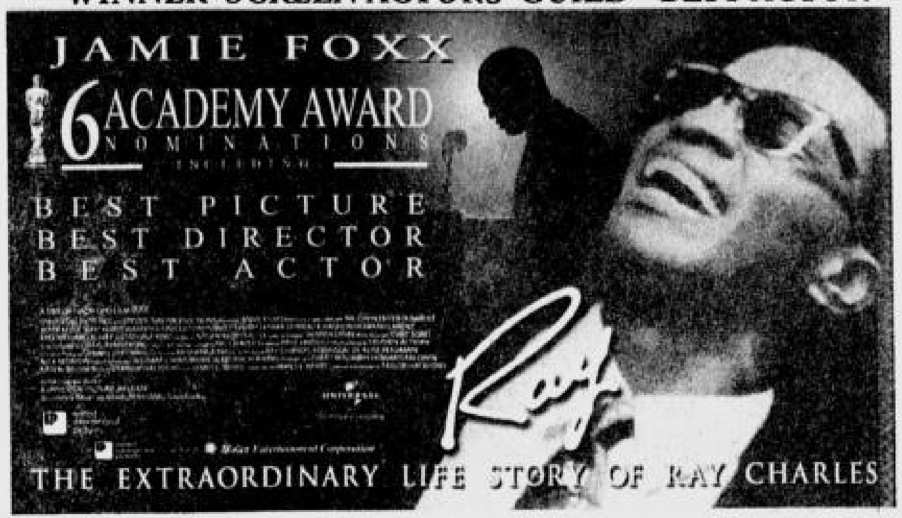

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2 (DOLBY) SIDEWAYS R18
3 (DOLBY) PHANTOM OF THE OPERA PG13
4 (DOLBY) RAY PG13
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) CONSTANTINE PG13

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 CONSTANTINE
2 SOON TO OPEN
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 LET THE LOVE BEGIN

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 CONSTANTINE
3 DREAMBOY

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) CONSTANTINE
5 SARANGGANI

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285
1 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
2 SARANGANI
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 DREAMBOY
5 (DOLBY) CONSTANTINE
6 ELEKTRA

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007
1 (DOLBY) LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DDS) DREAMBOY
2 (SDDS) SHALL WE DANCE
3 (DTS) FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
4 (GOLD DTS) CONSTANTINE
5 (GOLD DOLBY) PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
6 (GOLD SDDS) CONSTANTINE
7 (GOLD DOLBY) LET THE LOVE BEGIN
8 (DTS) LET THE LOVE BEGIN
9 (DTS) 5 CHILDREN
10 (DTS) SIDEWAY

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CONSTANTINE
SIDEWAYS
RAY
5 CHILFREN & IT
MEET THE FOCKERS
LET THE LOVE BEGIN
DREAMBOY
PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
SHALL WE DANCE
A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT

ALI MALL CINEMAS
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 CONSTANTINE
3 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
4 FLIGHT OOF THE PHOENIX
5 DREAMBOY

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2 CONSTANTINE
3 SARANGANI
4

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) GEORGE & THE DRAGON
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 (DTS EX) CONSTANTINE
4 DREAMBOY

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 DREAMBOY
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 (DOLBY) GEORGE & THE DRAGON
4 (DTS) CONSTANTINE

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489
1 DREAMBOY
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 (DOLBY) GEORGE & THE DRAGON
4 (DTS) ELEKTRA

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 DREAMBOY
2 ELEKTRA

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) RAY
2 (DOLBY) CONSTANTINE
3 (DOLBY) PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
4 (DOLBY) SIDEWAYS

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 CONSTANTINE
2 (DTS) LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 (DOLBY) DREAMBOY
4 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 (DOLBY) A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
3 (DTS) CONSTANTINE
4 DREAMBOY

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 DREAMBOY
2 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3 (DOLBY) ELEKTRA

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 DREAMBOY
3 (DOLBY) A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT
4 (DTS) ELEKTRA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3327
1 MEET THE FOCKERS
2 DREAMBOY
3 (DOLBY) LET THE LOVE BEGIN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) VERDICT
2 SARANGANI
3 IMPOTENT MAN
4 (DTS) FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) CONSTANTINE
2 SARANGANI
3 (DTS) LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 DREAMBOY
5 A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 DREAMBOY
2 MEET THE FOCKERS
3 (DTS) LET THE LOVE BEGIN
4 (DOLBY) A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 CONSTANTINE
3 MEET THE FOCKERS
4 DREAMBOY

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
2 DREAMBOY

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Promo period: February 21 - 28, 2005 Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0887 Series of 2005. See flyers for details.

SNEAK PREVIEW "Hitch," last week's top grosser in the US, opens March 2 nationwide. Sneak previews are set tomorrow and on Tuesday in selected metro cinemas.

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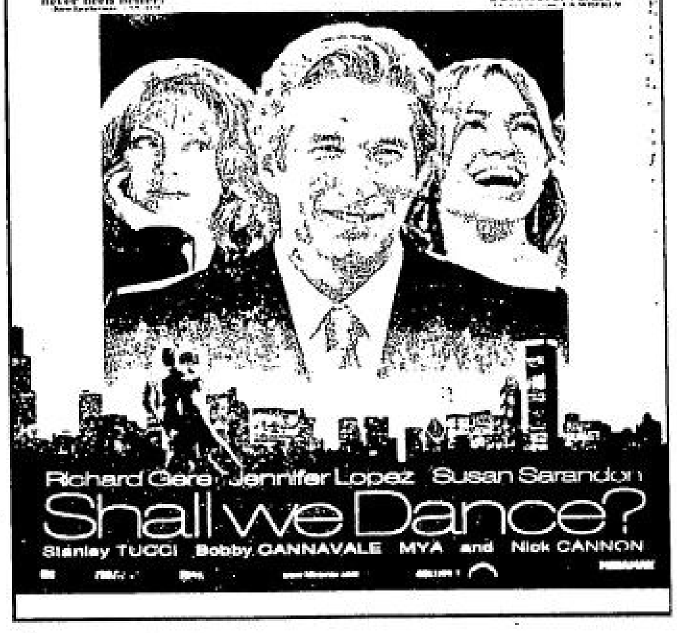

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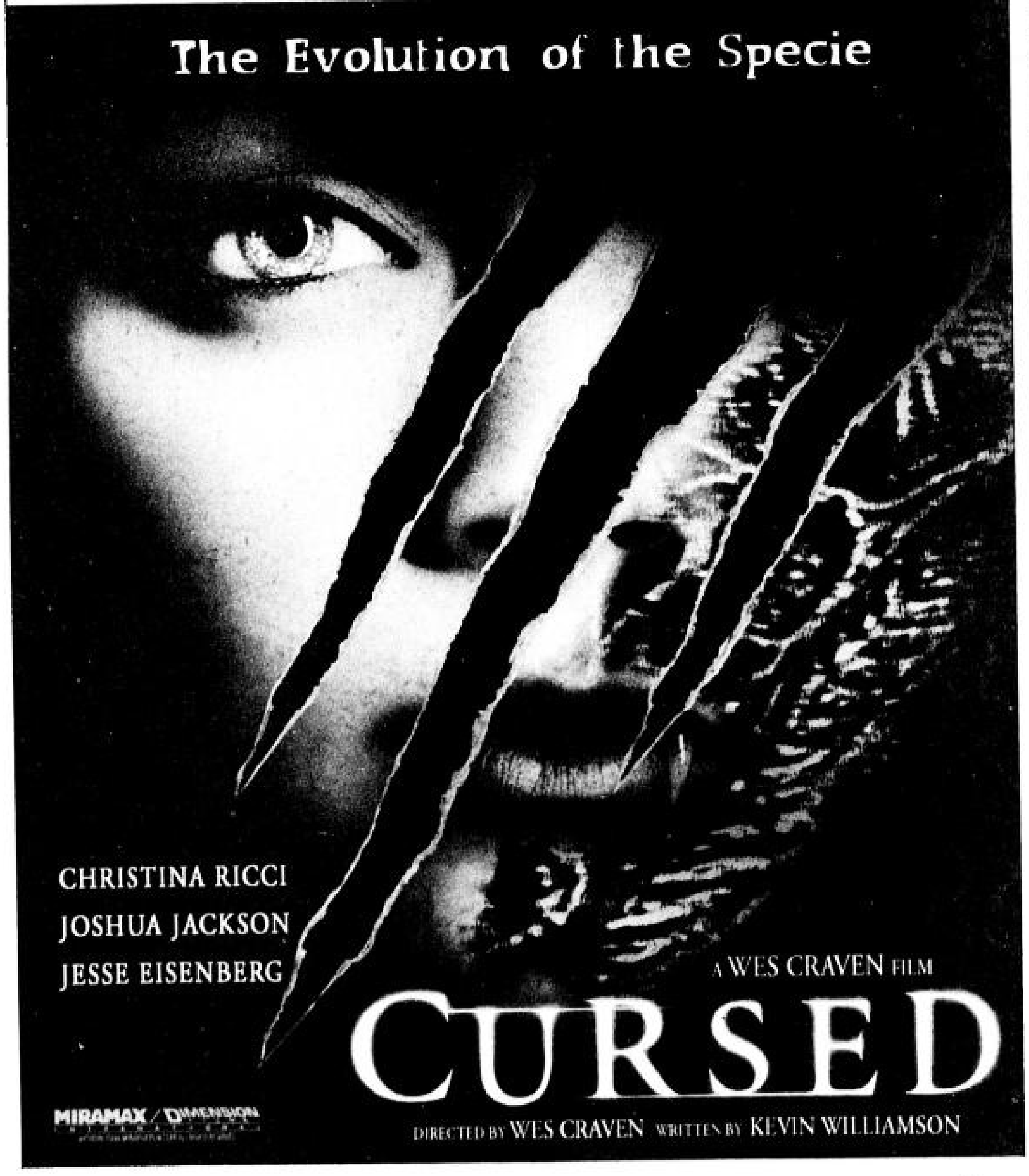

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A series of unfortunate questions for Jim Carrey

JIM CARREY as Count Olaf

JIM CARREY gave an astonishing dramatic performance as the lovelorn hero of "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," but he's back to his trademark comedy in "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events."

The movie—based on a best-selling book of the same title—casts the Canadian-born Carrey as the diabolical Count Olaf, a dreadful but enormously vain actor determined to swindle three newly orphaned children out of their family fortune. The hugely entertaining film also stars Meryl Streep and Billy Connolly, and Jude Law lends his voice for the title character, but it's Carrey who steals the show with a gallery of outrageous accents, intentionally terrible disguises and inventively off-kilter lines.

Here he talks about bad acting, balding, and what he might be doing, were he not in Hollywood making movies.

Count Olaf is a truly terrible actor. How did you feel when you were asked to play him?

I don't know why they called me! I was insulted, frankly [laughs]. I mean, why me?

So was it challenging to play a bad actor?

No, it's actually really fun, because, you know, when he makes choices, you don't have to do any research whatsoever. So, I'm Count Olaf and I'm going to pretend to be an Irish pirate? Okay, whatever. Bad accent? No problem! He's a bad actor. And the thing about it is, he's always Olaf underneath. And I loved the idea that he thinks the children are so stupid that they would never recognize him in a million years. Yet they immediately nail him every time, except they're kids, so no one believes them, which is sort of the gist of the story.

Count Olaf is the ultimate strange relative and every family probably has one. Did you think about that aspect of the character?

Some of us are the strange relative. But, you know, the weird thing is that Count Olaf turned out looking a lot like my dad. Which is really frightening to me, you know? I usually try to put a little bit of a dad-ism in each of my roles so that it's a kind of wink to my family when they see the movies. But they saw some advance pictures from this film and they went, dude, okay, now you're starting to scare us. But I also thought of Olaf as a kind of bird too. A very predatory bird. The kind of bird that waits for you to leave the nest and then steals the eggs.

Count Olaf is always on, always acting. You have sometimes talked about yourself like that, especially when you were a child, always telling some gag or pulling a prank. Is that an accurate picture?

Yes, for years I was the entertainment. I mean, it was almost a slavery situation (laughs), you know, where I'd get a knock in the middle of the night, and my parents would say, get your tap shoes on, there's company. So I was always doing shows; I was always the center. Which in fact I got from my father, because when I was a little kid I remember watching him and he would just captivate the room and so I thought, that's how you do it, that's how you captivate people.

Count Olaf has an extraordinary look and one of the oddest hairlines ever put on screen, plus numerous disguises. Did you hate all the hours in makeup?

I don't like it at all, but I like the result. I mean, I have the most disgusting teeth ever in this movie! But I have these incredible people, Billy [Corso] and Anne [Morgan], helping me, and they do brilliant work and they put up with me when I lose my mind and have to run out of the trailer screaming. But I was pretty Zen on this one in fact. I mean, after doing "The Grinch," which was just hours and hours of makeup every day, I felt so badly brutalized that now everything's like a cakewalk. I mean, you can hit me with a brick right now and I'm like, "Love you! Have a nice day!"

Is it true you shaved your head to play Count Olaf? And how did that look?

Yes, and when I'm shaving my head, I don't know if have a dodecahedron under there. I mean, I have no idea what the shape of my skull is or whatever. But what I find is that if you take a shot and go into something full bore, it always ends up surprising you. There's this really incredible feeling of giving birth to something. And I thought my bald head looked very, very nice (laughs). Like a pumpkin, in fact.

The original Lemony Snicket books are very dark. Terrible things happen to the children and the film has preserved all that. Is the film too dark for small children?

It depends. I wouldn't bring a four-year-old, maybe. But look at "Oliver Twist" or "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" with the child-kidnapping thing. I mean, the child-kidnapper character freaked me out when I was a kid, but I sort of loved it, too. I think kids love creepy fun and I also think that it ends up being more than just entertainment. I mean, "Lemony Snicket" is very entertaining, and it's funny, but at the same time, and just as the books did, I hope the movie taps into something that's going on with kids and teenagers everywhere. You know, you may have two parents and live in a comfortable home, unlike the kids in the film, but at some point every kid feels like they're kind of on their own in the world.

So you like that Count Olaf is scary?

It's real, you know. I think that in most really great movies that connect with people, there's some kind of tragedy involved and some pain involved. So it's a strange balance that we're striking here. At the end of the day we want you to laugh at the film, but the danger has to be real or it's all meaningless.

You're written about all the time. Are there any things you can tell us about yourself that we possibly don't know?

One, I'd probably be a painter if I weren't doing this, because I was so much into drawing and painting when I was a kid. And second, I think people would be surprised at how normal a person I am. I'm such a boring guy in a way. I mean, I like my home life, I like being quiet, I like a couple of friends hanging out and stuff like that. Every once in a while my friends drag me to some club or something, because it's what you're supposed to do to have fun, but it's really not me.

> On bad acting, balding, and what he might be doing, were he not in Hollywood making movies

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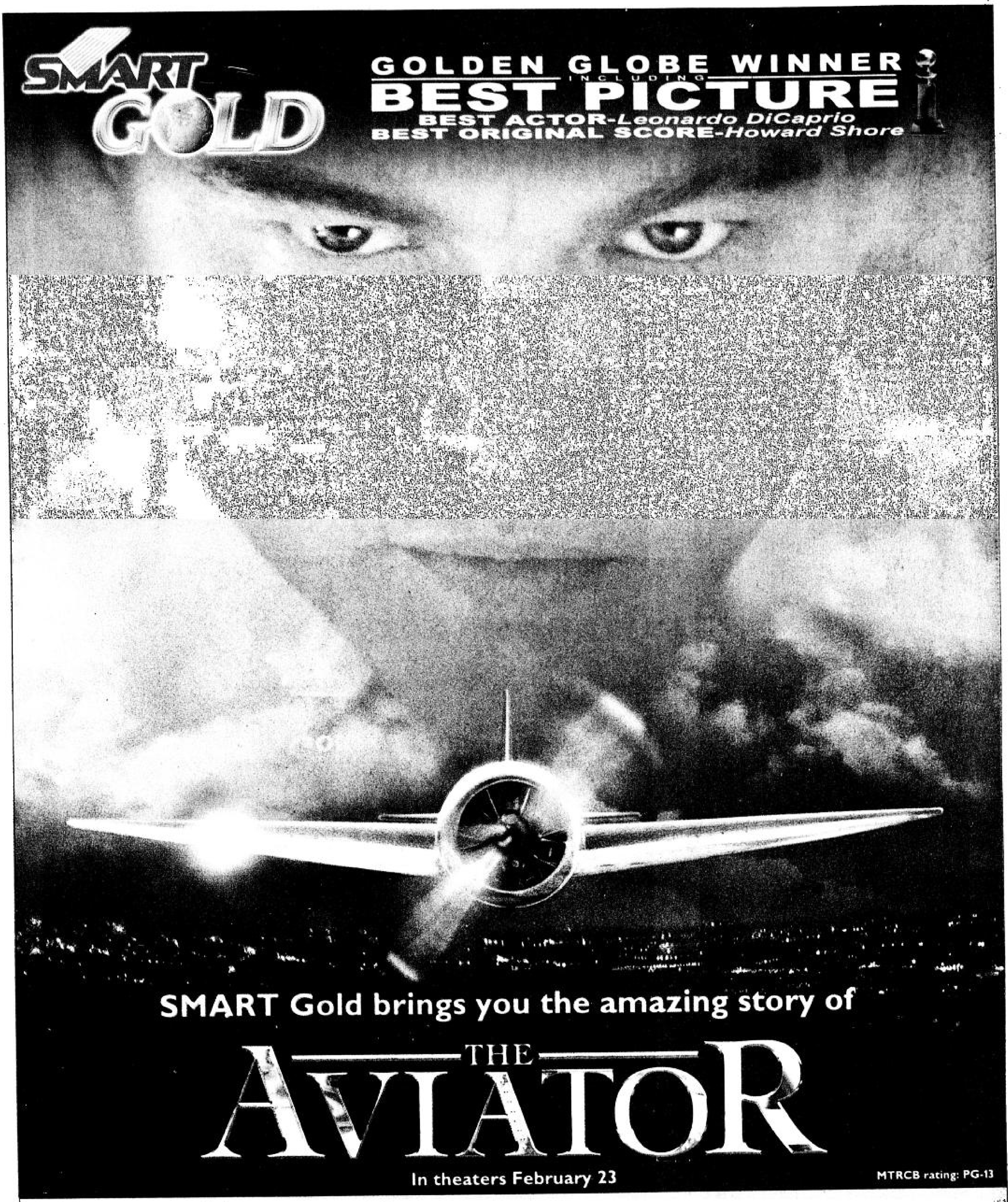
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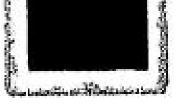
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Former bricks and mortar firm bats for 'life can be better'

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

RAMON del Rosario Jr.

WHEN Phinma president Ramon del Rosario Jr. told his mother the group was going into education, her mother exclaimed "Finally!"

It was a comment that surprised Boy Blue, a former Finance Secretary during the Ramos administration.

His mother, who is in her 80s told him she had longed dreamed for the group to go into education recognizing there was a need for good groups to go into education. But she never told her husband, Ramon Sr., who founded the group nor her son, who now heads Phinma.

Phinma is a big management consultant firm, known for Western educated executives. For decades it was the country's biggest producer of cement under the Bacnotan Cement Industries Inc. because of several firms it managed and co-owned.

In August 2004, the Phinma group sold its last cement firm, Union Cement Corp. to a Swiss group.

The sale prompted the group, started over 50 years ago by a group of young industrialists who had just graduated from Western graduate schools, headed by Ramon V. del Rosario Sr., Filemon Rodriguez and Ernesto O. Escaler, to go to the drawing board and ask themselves what they were going to do for the next 50 years.

ARAULLO University was acquired by Phinma in April of 2004 and adopted as part of the Phinma Education Network (PEN).

"We began thinking what else to do. We did not want to go into heavy industrials like manufacturing," explains president of Phinma.

He says Phinma which was in cement, steel and paper for decades recognized that unfortunately the Philippines has a production cost disadvantage in these industries. Energy, transport, and wages in the country are higher than in other countries like China and Vietnam.

"Then we recognize that the real strength of our country is its people."

Their conclusion was to make the Filipinos more competitive is via education.

From bricks and mortars the Phinma group adopted a 180 degree strategy turnaround by moving into three softer industries—education, affordable health services and a not so soft sector—energy. Of course the couple of billions of pesos raised from the sale of the cement firms and its bank, The Asian Bank provided a good kitty for the group to go into new ventures.

They tapped the help of Image Dimensions, a PR agency to create a new image for the group.

The agency created the tag line 'Life can be better' which Ramon Jr. says captures what they want to convey —that the group is going into that are all geared towards improving the Filipino's life.

The firm got new personalities for the different fields they went into.

For education, they got Chito Salazar who used to be with the Asian Institute of Management then later to STI. Energy is headed by former Energy Secretary Francisco Viray. Housing, via the Phinma Property Holdings Corp. is headed by Willie Uy. Phinma is still scouting for a hospital to manage and invest in.

SUNNY Villas is an affordable housing development.

To date, Phinma has acquired two schools—both outside Metro Manila.

"We feel there are already enough good schools here" Besides, he adds, many schools in Metro Manila are overpriced because of the value of the real estate they sit on.

But as Ramon Jr. points out, "We are buying schools, not real estate."

The first school it acquired was 69 percent of the Araullo University, one of the leading private schools of Cabanatuan City and

FORMER/ B2

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PLDT

A window into the mind, heart of the healing profession

By Dante M. Velasco
Contributor

EXECUTIVE READ

MANY of the comments on the professional descendants of Hippocrates (400 BC)—the physicians—have been coming from outside the profession, whether good or bad, unflattering or complimentary.

Hardly do doctors take time to make their views heard. Rarely do they engage government, media, or civil society in a debate—except in their own journals whose readers are confined to fellow medical practitioners. When the Generics Act of 1988 was yet a bill, the debate was lopsided in favor of the piece of legislation. Little did we know that the entire membership of the Philippine Medical Association opposed the bill, calling it the "Genocide Act."

With the rise of non-traditional medicine, the return to natural healing, and the increasing popularity of "herbal medicine"—not to mention religious cults that rule out any need for surgery or other tested remedies—how we wish we would hear a voice from their favorite "whipping boy"—traditional medicine.

Little did we know that there is such a voice—and a book—published at the turn of the century. The voice has an eloquence and literary flourish that's rarely (so we thought) found among the men and women donning stethoscopes in regulation white gowns.

The book, "In Defense of the Physician," by noted cardiologist Homobono B. Calleja, is notable for its forceful essay about the profession and the profession's creed, commitments and concerns.

Listen: "Only the physician sees the kaleidoscopic spectacle of life from cradle to grave, not merely as a passive witness to the creation, development, growth, and end of being—but also as an active, caring advocate of life. His intricately woven knowledge of the chemistry of carbons and the electricity of atoms of life makes him the healer of the body." Is this your doctor talking?

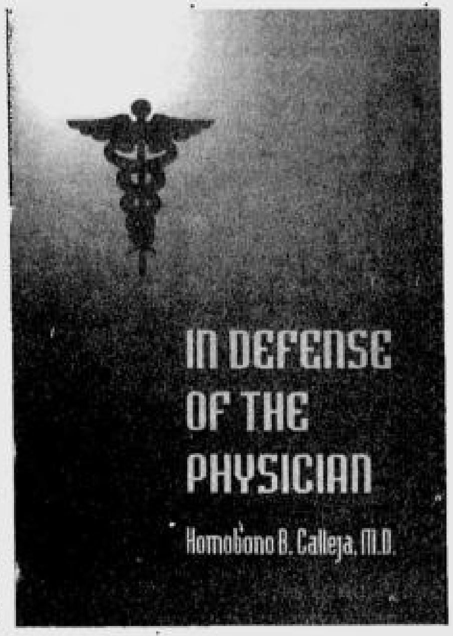
That's the author of the book speaking. The book is a collection of essays, speeches and articles for medical journals, and turns out to have popular appeal to people who have always wanted to have a window into the physician's mind and heart. The seemingly sedate, almost passionless and taciturn professional turns out to be an advocate of unmatched devotion to a cause and an uncharacteristic intensity reserved for firebrand activists.

In a chapter titled "Generics or Genocide Act of 1988," the author dared to lock horns with fellow physician, now Senator, Juan Flavier. Calling it a "second-class medical delivery system," Dr. Calleja questions the fundamental basis of the Generics Law, which states that "drugs with the same generic ingredient and the same dose are equivalent."

The author counters: "The statement has no grain of truth," pointing out that drug preparations are "equivalent" if they satisfy three "equivalence" requirements: chemical, biologic, and therapeutic. For laymen like us, the author provides explanation in the book.

On the same controversy, the author likens the medical association with Galileo (1633) who was imprisoned by the Roman Inquisition of the Vatican for supporting the Copernican "heliocentric theory" (the sun is the universe's center), when the acceptable belief was "geocentric" (the earth as center).

The author stretches the analogy identifying his profession with Galileo, saying: "The true science of medicine will prevail over the pseudo-science of political medicine formulated by the callous collusion of the Department of Health and Congress."



The book is not all passionate polemics and stirring defense. It is peppered with appropriate quotes from the world's greatest thinkers and verses written by the author. A verse, directed at what he calls a "health provider licensed by an HMO," with this line laden with sarcasm: "Once I saw a doctor and his license/ He used to diagnose disease by his expertise/ Now he is limited by his HMO plan."

The book is interesting because it also touches on patient rights, malpractice suits - and even media's favorite topic: doctors playing God. On the latter, the author treads carefully and very. thoughtfully on an ethical dilemma: "physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia."

He declares: "A physician is sworn to cure the sick and alleviate suffering… he cannot be an instrument of death; hence he cannot inject the lethal drug. However, he can lend his medical expertise to pronounce the criminal dead or still alive after the injection is given."

Rarely does one come across a book where the taciturn physician speaks. In this book, not only is a medical doctor opening his heart and mind. The author's voice is compelling, and his thoughts navigate the seas of God-given and human wisdom in history, poetry and science—or lack of it (in politics, the author's nemesis).

Amid high profile views on non-traditional medicine, this book provides a reassuring picture of both profession and physician—who is steeped in medical training, fiercely committed to his Hippocratic oath, and—as the book shows—one driven by a single devotion to heal. This book is a must read, especially for executives concerned with their health (after worrying about wealth) or when, at times, they contemplate their own mortality. *(dantemvelasco@yahoo.com)*

Former bricks…

From page B1

Nueva Ecija province. They have agreed to retain the name for five years.

They have also signed a memorandum of agreement with a school in Cagayan de Oro.

Del Rosario says coincidentally, both schools are strong in Criminology. He notes there has been an increase in enrollment in this course. He hopes Phinma will be able to incorporate values in this course which will in the future create less corrupt law enforcers.

He says the education vision of Phinma is for the graduates of its schools to be known for "proficiency in English, proficiency in IT" and who are "immediately employable".

For affordable housing, PPHC has Sunny Villas near La Mesa Dam, Smile City Homes in Quezon City. A new one is being development Spatio Bernardo off Mindanao Avenue. The houses cost about P800,000 and are eligible for Pag-Ibig financing.

Although Phinma sold out of the cement industry and paper, it still has its Union Galvanized Steel roofing business which it is able to tap for its housing projects.

For energy the idea of Phinma is to offer its management services to cooperatives involved in energy. It is initially tapping Pangasinan. It is also interested in joining a consortium to buy a power plant. The group's preference however is a geothermal power plant.

Del Rosario says the shift in Phinma's strategy created some excitement among its people and created enthusiasm.

"We're very excited as an organization. Housing gives people a new sense of mission, including my mother," says the 60-year-old.

THE FORMER Finance Secretary is a family man allotting a section in his room for family photos. JOSEPH AGCAOILI

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MICHELLE Milan at her stand in SM Centerpoint

ASTER May Astudillo at her stand in Eastwood City, Libis

Fruit drink maker opens 44 carts in '04

IN A country blessed with wonderful varieties of tropical fruits, one man decided to bring nature's bounty to the malls through his Fruitas venture. Offering freshly squeezed fruit juices and smoothies, Lester Yu's Fruitas is everyday man's oasis of thirst-quenching drinks. To describe it as fruity is pun with maximum intention because 2004 saw 44 Fruitas Carts opening all over the city malls. At a time when almost everyone is wailing over diminishing profits and economic hopelessness, Yu had his hands full helping franchisees set up their carts and inventories. Two individuals who jumped into the Fruitas bandwagon attest to the business franchise's viability.

Success in six months

Business-minded Michelle Milan used to do the rounds of yearly Christmas bazaar circuit until she started working as quality assurance officer for a call center. The long hours at the call center was starting to take its toll when she learned of Fruitas from a friend. "My close friend from college convinced me to become a Fruitas franchisee. So with an initial cash outlay of P180,000 I got my own Fruitas cart at SM Centerpoint Foodcourt," said Michelle. "Believe it or not six months after I opened I already got my ROI. That's why I'm hoping to open another Fruitas outlet this 2005."

"Fruitas juices and shakes are easy to sell because they're affordable, delicious, and most importantly they're nutritious. People today have become health conscious and our wonderful mix of shakes and smoothies give them the satisfaction of enjoying a fancy but healthy drink."

"These drinks deepened my love for the product and that has helped me in running a successful Fruitas outlet. Believing in the product gives you the love and passion for whatever it is you venture into. The positivity extends over to the work staff because they are my partners in making our outlet one of the most successful. Fruitas brought me a lot of positive possibilities despite last year's economic woes and I never forget to thank God for that."

Hitting a goldmine

A graduate of BS Applied Economics from De la Salle University, Aster May Astudillo was looking for business opportunities in between day jobs. "I've had different jobs. But I've always been dead set on setting up my own business instead of working for others. So, I used the time to know what I really want, what actually is a business, how does it work, who really is Juan dela Cruz, his needs, etc. None of these questions were answered, at least not until Fruitas came into my life.

"It was summer of 2003 when my mother and I chanced upon a crowd in front of one of the food carts at SM Fairview. My curiosity got the best of me because it was an unusually large number of people for a food cart and there it was—a colorful Fruitas cart serving a fruit shake of your choice prepared in front of you. Fresh, no preservatives, real stuff, and actually great taste.

From that day on I always made it a point to pass by Fruitas and order a shake and be fascinated again and again with how it is run. After some time and several fruit shakes, I decided Fruitas is the answer to my dreams. I lost no time in contacting Mr. Yu. At the initial meeting he laid out the franchising basics for me and fired up my enthusiasm. I was so excited afterwards that I couldn't wait to tell my mom who was hesitant at first, being an employee all her life. But I didn't relent until I convinced her to lend me money for my start-up. Her one condition was for her to meet Mr. Yu to discuss the business personally with him. Come May 2003 it was a done deal," narrated Aster.

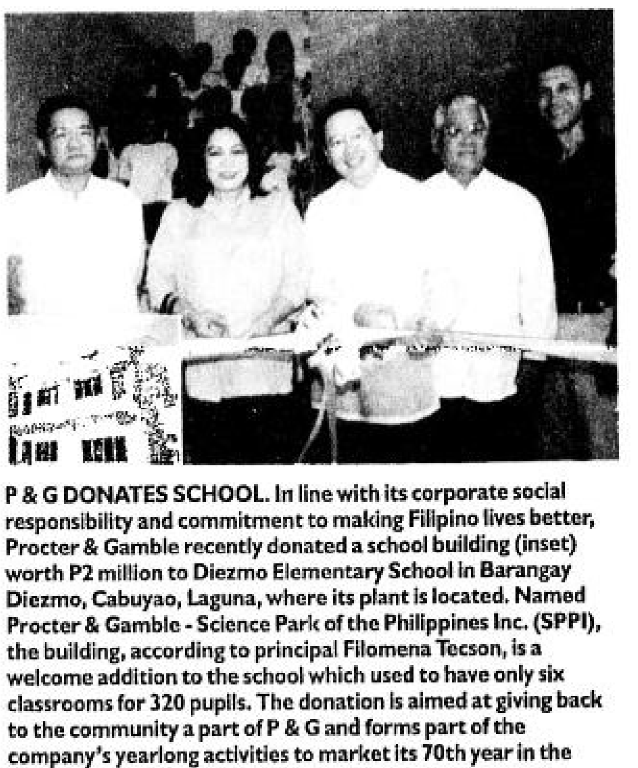
Today, after two years and an initial cash outlay of P80,000, the young business maverick has three Fruitas outlets. The first on the 2nd floor of SM North Edsa near Cinemas 1-4. The second outlet that she opened in December 2003 is in Ever Gotesco Commonwealth Center. The third one opened in September 2004 in Eastwood, Libis, that she partly owns.

"I realized that ROIs depend on store location. With my SM North outlet I got my ROI in less than six months. For the Ever Commonwealth outlet, I expect the ROI in one year. The Eastwood branch is still a baby."

And like the successful Fruitas franchisees, Aster believes in their product line and considers an apple-carrot smoothie and pure apple-carrot juice her personal favorites. "Believing and loving your product is a major factor when going into business. It's the Fruitas edge over other franchise businesses. Fruitas lures you with its promise of fresh fruit shakes prepared on the spot and it hooks you with its all-natural goodness. All these at very affordable prices."

"One cannot ever go wrong going into a business venture that you also enjoy doing even when you have to do the nitty-gritty stuff yourself. It's normal to have 'what ifs' in the beginning, all businesses involve risks. But as long as you love what you're doing and care for your business as well as your employees, success will come your way. If you're uneasy about anything regarding business, don't be afraid to consult honest to goodness people like Yu. I'm sure he'll be glad to help you out, just like what he did to me almost two years ago."

For franchise inquiries, call 731-8886 or (0918) 9030602.



P & G DONATES SCHOOL. In line with its corporate social responsibility and commitment to making Filipino lives better, Procter & Gamble recently donated a school building (inset) worth P2 million to Diezmo Elementary School in Barangay Diezmo, Cabuyao, Laguna, where its plant is located. Named Procter & Gamble - Science Park of the Philippines Inc. (SPPI), the building, according to principal Filomena Tecson, is a welcome addition to the school which used to have only six classrooms for 320 pupils. The donation is aimed at giving back to the community a part of P & G and forms part of the company's yearlong activities to market its 70th year in the country. Photo shows Jawyer Ed Imperial, P & G's general counsel and external relations director for Asean-Australia-India; Sonia Roxas, executive assistant to Cabuyao Mayor Nila Aguillo; Johnip Cua, P & G Philippines president; Jose Balinghasay, SPPI president and Doug Wood, P & G Cabuyao plant manager.

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Puratos adds a new dimension to its image

FAMOUS throughout the world for the quality of its ingredients, its technological innovation and its services, Puratos is developing its corporate image in order to fully reflect what the group has become today: the "reliable partners in innovation" of hundreds of thousands of bakers, patissiers and chocolate makers in more than 100 countries. More than simply a change of logo and image, this is a really important evolution in the group's vision of the future and the intensification of the partnership relationship it maintains with its customers.

The Puratos Group has evolved considerably over the years. One notable change is that consumers are becoming increasingly demanding in terms of taste. Today, health and food safety are viewed as highly important and often placed at the top of the agenda. In addition, as a result of mobile populations and globalization, everybody enjoys the pleasure of discovering specialties from other cultures. And finally, a new need has gradually developed. Because neither men nor women have time to cook, they want convenience food that is easy to prepare and eat. These are new dimensions that the Puratos group has wanted to integrate into its thinking and its activities.

"We want to be even closer to our customers, even more available to them to help them grow in markets which are constantly evolving" affirms Eddy Van Belle, group chief executive officer and chairman of the board. And Daniel Malcorps, group chief operating officer adds, "It is precisely this evolution in consumer markets which has led us to redefine our vision. We believe that everyone, everywhere in the world will attach more and more importance to the quality of their food in the future."

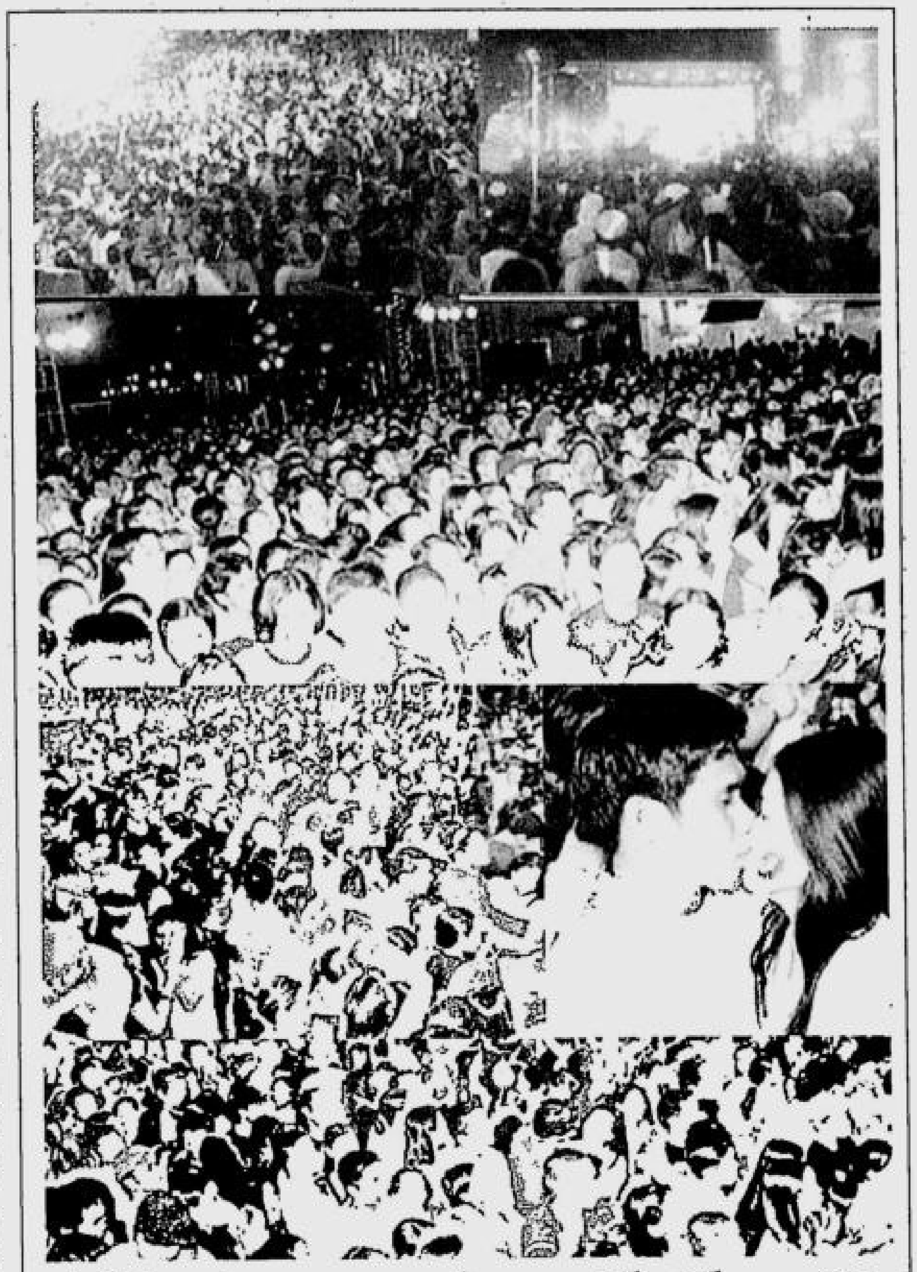
The consumer, the final decision maker. Puratos is integrating the consumer dimension in its relationship with customers and is reflected in its mission. "Aside from the fact that the true mission of any company is focused on its own development, the satisfaction of its customers and that of its shareholders, it also represents the role that the company must play to make its vision concrete. For customers, it must be the main reason which encourages them to choose Puratos as their supplier-partner", continues Eddy Van Belle. And Daniel Malcorps further underlines that "this choice implies a differentiation of Puratos compared to the competition - a differentiation which, for us, resides both in the partnership and innovation dimension with our customers and in satisfying consumers, our customers' customers.

Above all, the Puratos story is one of passion. "Our profession is our passion; helping bakers, patissiers and chocolate makers the world over to develop their business", underlines Eddy Van Belle. "We do this by working alongside them. By listening to them and understanding their expectations better, we develop ingredients, products, technologies and solutions which are reliable, original and innovative. Because our principal goal is to give our customers the greatest peace of mind possible at work. Moreover, our world presence and our understanding of different cultures allow us to bring to our customers a certain inspiration which is completely in symbiosis with what consumers are looking for".

A reliable partner in innovatioh. In the world of bakery, patisserie and chocolate , innovation often requires a hefty dose of courage, talent and patience. Since Puratos was founded, the notion of innovation has always been at the center of its preoccupations. Indeed, Puratos is the company which invented the first complete improver. T500 in 1953. Years later, S500 marked a new milestone in the quest for quality. Today, the latest innovations from the group are, on the one hand Acti-Plus technology which combines the positive synergies of enzymes and emulsifiers in improvers. And so Puratos has innovation "in its genes" and is determined to make every effort to help its customers innovate. For Puratos, innovation is the best means of generating development. Although , this particular path is certainly not easy, it nevertheless allows the group to develop exceptional partnerships with its customers, to the extent that creating a new product or a new solution together generates links which go much deeper than classic supplier/customer relationships. "Being our customers' reliable partner in innovation means a long-term effort" remarks Daniel Malcorps. "With the goal of responding even better to customer expectations by taking account of the "consumer" dimension, we have launched discussion groups among our staff all over the world".

The Unicorn, a strong symbol. "When we were looking for a symbol for our new logo", continues Eddy Van Belle" the unicorn was an obvious choice. The unicorn is a legendary animal which symbolizes courage and ethics. The unicorn led us to reflect on the values in which our group believes. Knowing that we want to become the "reliable partners in innovation" of our customers, we decided to link three values to "reliable partner", i.e. ethics, team spirit and quality. Indeed to create a partnership, you must be highly ethical in your approach, create a team spirit and have quality development as a common goal. Courage, passion and vision are linked to "innovation".

Gradual implementation. The change of image will happen over two years. Puratos will take advantage of it to gradually introduce new types of packaging which will be easier for customers to use, perform more efficiently in terms of conservation and be better for the environment. 2005 and 2006 will therefore be important years for the evolution of the Puratos group with the goal of confirming it in its mission of being the "reliable partners in innovation".



A kiss to remember with Close Up Lovapalooza 2

CLOSE Up Lovapalooza 2, held last Feb. 12 simultaneously in Manila, Pampanga, Cebu, and Davao, was the grandest Valentine celebration in Philippine history! In Manila alone, the city government estimates at least 500,000 people. Mayor Lito Atienza declared this as the biggest assembly ever held in Baywalk. Thousands more joined in the festivities in Pampanga, Cebu, and Davao. Other cities such as Cagayan de Oro, Baguio, and Bacolod had their respective satellite events to take part in Close Up Lovapalooza 2. This massive display of love exceeds turnout figures expected by far.

In the first Lovapalooza held last year, the Philippines beat Chile's 4,445 kissing couples record, posting an official count of 5,327 couples credibly verified by the Guiness Book of World Records. Last Saturday's event sequel was an overwhelming commemoration of that achievement. Close Up Lovapalooza 2 successfully spread the romance, and proudly showed the world the Philippines as a nation of loving people.

Photo shows (clockwise, from top left): Lovapalooza 2 in Cebu led by Mayor Tomas Osmena, Lovapalooza 2 in Angeles Pampanga led by Mayor Carmelo Lazatin, Lovapalooza 2 in Matina Square Davao City led by Mayor Rodrigo Duarte, and moments at Lovapalooza 2 in Baywalk Manila led by Mayor Lito Atienza.

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- RAYMOND RICAFORT, Netopia Internet Café
- ERIC TENG, The 99 Store/Maldita
- TITA PUANGCO, Ancilla Consulting
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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI) is inviting all interested bidders for our forthcoming public bidding for:

ONE (1) UNIT X-RAY CALIBRATION SYSTEM WITH ACCESSORIES

ISSUANCE OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT	: FEB. 21, 2005
LAST DAY OF SUBMISSION OF ELIGIBILITY	: MAR. 4, 2005
REQUIREMENT PRE-BID CONFERENCE	: MAR. 11, 2005
BIDDING	: TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER

APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT IS EIGHT MILLION THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY NINE THOUSAND PESOS (P8,379,000.00)

For inquiries interested parties may contact the BAC Secretariat at tel. Nos. 929-60-11 to 19 loc. 275 (c/o Luzviminda B. Muyco) or visit our website at http://www.pnri.dost.gov.ph.

The Bids and Awards Committee and the Institute reserve the right to reject any or all.bids, waive any defect thereto, accept bids as may be deemed advantageous thereto or postpone the bidding for whatever cause it may deem proper.

In case of failure, a re-bidding shall automatically be scheduled five (5) calander days after the announcement of failed bidding at the same time and place as the first bidding.

(Sgd.) CORAZON C. BERNIDO, Ph.D.
Deputy Director and Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – Feb. 20 & 27, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that the following persons are no longer connected with **C.F. SHARP CREW MANAGEMENT, INC.**

1.	Erwin D. Eleazar	effective 31-Jan-05
2.	Dino Alexander F. Gan	effective 31-Jan-05
3.	Mario C. Paz	effective 15-Feb-05
4.	Emmanuel S. Cosme	effective 15-Feb-05
5.	Vilma M. Cristobal	effective 05-Feb-05
6.	Alvin M. De Leon	effective 05-Feb-05

All transactions entered into by the persons stated above for and in behalf of the company from the said dates shall no longer be honored.

(For POEA purposes only)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Division of Negros Oriental
Third Elementary Education Project
Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental

February 20, 2005

Invitation for Bids

Rehabilitation and Expansion of One (1) Unit-Two Storey Division Office Building of Negros Oriental

(Funded by GOP and JBIC Loan No. PH-184P)

To All Eligible Bidders

The GOP has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) toward the financing of Third Elementary Education Project, and it intends to apply part or the whole of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the contract.

The Department of Education now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the Rehabilitation and Expansion of One (1) Unit-Two Storey Division Office Building of Negros Oriental. Completion of the works is required in a period of 180 calendar days.

The procurement will be conducted in accordance with the applicable version of JBIC's *Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested Bidders at the following address and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Php 2,500.00 starting February 22, 2005.

Department of Education
Division of Negros Oriental
Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental

Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of two and a half percent (2.5%) of total bid price, and shall be delivered to the Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education on or before 10:00 am on March 29, 2005 at same address as above at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

A pre-bid conference will be held on March 8, 2005 at the same address as above to respond to prospective Bidder's questions regarding any matter contained in the Bidding Documents.

The Department of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **JOSE FREDDIE M. MOCON**
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Feb. 20, 2005)

NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE CORPORATION

February 16, 2005

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation (NHMFC) invites all interested parties to pre-qualify and bid for the Rental of two (2) units heavy duty copying machine, (including operators and consumables but excluding copy paper) and one (1) unit back-up copying machine (without operator).

Interested parties may secure pre-qualification information sheet starting February 22, 2005 to February 24, 2005 from the Office of the Manager, Physical Resources Department (PRD), Administrative Group, 7th Floor, Filomena Bldg. III, 104 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. A pre-bid conference for all qualified bidders will be conducted at the NHMFC Library on March 11, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. Failure to attend the pre-bidding conference will be a ground for disqualification to participate. The deadline of submission and actual opening of the bid will be announced in said meeting.

A bidder's bond equivalent to 5% of the toal bid price but not exceeding Php 10,000.00 in the form of cash, manager's check payable to NHMFC or GSIS bidder's bond must be enclosed in the sealed bids.

National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality/deficiency therein or to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the Corporation.

For further information/clarification on the above matter, please contact Ms. Loida R. Raymundo of the PSMD, Telephone nos. 893-1501 to 25, local 324 & 327.

(Sgd) **ATTY. DANIEL Q. LACUATA**
Vice President
Administrative Group

(PDI – February 20, 2005)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that **CAEZAR A. PALINSAD**, whose picture appears above is no longer connected in any way with MULTISTIQ INCORPORATED with office address at 1809 Prestige Tower, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Any transaction henceforth entered into by him for and in behalf of the company will not be honored.

The Management

(PDI – February 20, 2005)

INVITATION TO BID "AS IS WHERE IS"
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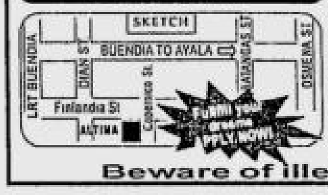

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50 CHINESE COOK
50 WAITERS
50 WAITRESSES

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DUBAI Principals Interview:
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FEB. 25, 2005 8:00AM
TECHNICIAN/ENGINEERS/FOREMAN / DRAFTSMAN/ F. DESIGNER /TAILOR
FEB. 24, 2005 8:00AM

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Incomplete info will not be registered.

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Republic of the Philippines
Province of Zambales
Municipality of San Antonio
OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN
Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP II)

INVITATION TO BID

February 20, 2005
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 7152-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the *Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP II)* and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under contract located in North Eastern San Antonio ARC, Brgy. Luna, Municipality of San Antonio, Province of Zambales. The Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guideline: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of San Antonio, Province of Zambales and implementing partner of the DAR for ARCDP II invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the ***Rehabilitation of 1.988kms. Luna Loong Road*** under ***Contract No. RIRR 04 072 01 NES-Z.***

Project Duration : 150 Calendar Days
Bidding Documents: PHP 5,000.00
Minimum Bid Security : PhP 85,000.00
Bid Closing Date : March 22, 2005 @ 10:00 AM.

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS:

Item No.	Scope of Works	Quantity	Unit
10	Clearing & Grubbing	19,900.00	sq.m.
12	Removal of Existing Structures	1.00	l.s.
13	Structure Excavation	169.00	cu.m.
14	Embankment Using Borrow Materials	7,610.00	cu.m.
20	Aggregate Sub-Base Course	1,192.80	cu.m.
21	Aggregate Base Course	1,192.80	cu.m.
43	Reinforcing Steel Bars	5,988.00	kgs.
44	Structural Concrete Class "A"	47.00	cu.m.
50(1)	Installation of 300mm dia. RCPC w/ Headwalls	45.00	ln.m.
50(4)	Installation of 900mm dia. RCPC w/ Headwalls	7.00	ln.m.
51(3)	Grouted Riprap	631.00	cu.m.

Minimum Equipments Required

Bulldozer (1 unit)-owned; Road Roller Vibratory Compactor (9 ton min.1 unit)-owned; Road Grader (1 unit)-owned; Loader (1 unit)-owned; Dump Truck (4 units)-owned; Backhoe (1 unit)-owned; Water truck (1 unit)-owned; survey instruments-owned/leased.

A complete set of bidding documents maybe purchase by the interested bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office of the Municipality of San Antonio, Province of Zambales, starting February 21, 2005 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP5,000.00 for each set. Pre-bid conference will be held in the same address on March 9, 2005 @ 10:00 A.M.

Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security deposit of PhP85,000.00 in the form of: Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Guarantee, on a free convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the BAC Secretariat Office of the Municipality of San Antonio, Province of Zambales, on or before the Bid closing date on March 22, 2005 @ 10:00 AM, at which time the Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

The LGU-BAC ARCDP-II of San Antonio, Zambales reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) MELCHOR V. VENTURA
Chairman, LGU BAC-ARCDPII

(PDI - Feb. 20, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Bids and Awards Committee
Division of Apayao

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

February 20, 2005

To All Qualified Bidders:

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the *Japan Bank for International Cooperation* towards the cost of financing the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments for civil works component of the project. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the *Guidelines for Procurement under Japan Bank for International Cooperation Loans.*
2. The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the **Construction of One (1) Unit – Two (2) Storey Division Office of Apayao.**
3. Bidding documents may be purchased at the **Department of Education, Bids and Award Commitee (BAC) Secretariat** with address at ***DepEd Division Office, Luna, Apayao*** for a nonrefundable fee of Php 2,500.00 for each set from ***February 23-March 28, 2005.*** Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of 2.5% of total bid price, and shall be delivered to the **Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education** on or before **10:00 AM** of ***March 29, 2005***: Department of Education Division Office, Luna, Apayao.
5. A pre-bid conference will be held, to clarify all queries and questions, on March 8, 2005 at the same address. Also, a site visit will be conducted in the afternoon of the same date..
6. The committee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids which may be found disadvantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **VICTORINO G. AGMATA**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
DepEd-Division of Apayao

(PDI - Feb 20, 2005)

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HELEN SALUD ESQUIVEL

Peacefully died in the Grace of our Lord on 13th of February 2005.

Her loving children **Marilene, Marilu, Vicki, Lala, Manolet,** and **Mabi**; in-laws, grandchildren, brother **Nony Salud**; sister-in-law, **Cely Salud,** other relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Celebration of a Memorial Mass
will be announced later.

Our Dearly Beloved

RUBEN DISCAYA DIONEDA

Peacefully joined the Lord and his wife MILAGROS FONTELAR on February 17, 2005 at the age of 73.

His only son, **Atty. Andrew F. Dioneda**, daughter-in-law **Rose**; grandchildren, **Katin** and **Sarah**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

There will be a 1:00 p.m. Mass on February 23, 2005. Cremation will follow at La Funeraria Paz Crematorium, Q.C. at 2:00 p.m.

Message of Thanks

BENIGNO VIQUIERA CUNANAN

April 27, 1915 – February 4, 2005

We, the bereaved family; wife **Felicitas Villarama Cunanan**; children **Eduardo, Ronaldo, Celeste, Cynthia, Aristeo** and **Alberto**; in-laws and other relatives wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to those who spent precious time with us and expressed in many ways their love, concern and support for us in our moments of grief and sorrow.

CARMEN de GUIA ALCID

Born on November 9, 1928
Died peacefully in Federal Way, Washington on February 16, 2005 at 5:45 in the evening.

She is survived by her sister, **Consuelo "Choling" Ramoso**; children: **Lourdes & Danny Javilinar, Tet, Chu-Chu, Boy & Penny, Rene & Veronica, Andy & Grace, Ariel, Tina & Mandy Pedagat**; grandchildren: **Weng & Willy, JP, Eugene, Jan, Ralph, Regina & Alan, Racquel & Gerald, Jean, Abby, Angelo, Jesse, Olivia, Annmarie, Kathryn, Chloe, Lenny, Ray, Monika**; great-grandchildren: **Jacob, Jarren, Micah** and **Marco.**

Her remains will be cremated in Kent, Washington on Monday, February 21, 2005 but will be buried in Manila at a later date.

IN LOVING MEMORY
on the Fifth Death Anniversary of

MAURA NILL JACINTO

Who passed on to Eternal Life on February 20, 2000.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered at the following Churches:

St. James the Great Parish Church .... *Ayala Alabang Village*	10:00 AM Mass 6:00 PM Mass
St. Jerome Emiliani & Sta. Susana Parish Church .... *Ayala Alabang Village*	8:30 AM Mass 7:00 PM Mass
St. Francis Church .... *Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong*	6:30 PM Mass

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYER FOR THE ETERNAL REPOSE OF HER SOUL.

Our Love for Her Never Dies...

In Memory of Our Beloved

CARMEN DE GUZMAN y MENESES

January 7, 1924-February 18, 2005

Brothers and Sisters **Jose Maria** (†), **Ramon** (†), **Juanita** (†), **Pacita** (†), **Maria, Salvador**; nephews and nieces **Tina, Pete, Nenita, Lulu, Tonette, Techie, Meldy, Sylvia, Ela, Jopee, Mina, Mimi, Tin, Ada** requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at St. Charbel Chapel, Rolex St., St. Charbel Village-I, Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be today, Sunday, February 20, 2005 at 2:00 PM at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Thank you for the moment that you have shared with us during our time of grief and in remembering our beloved

ALFREDO C. CABUNIAG

March 5, 1934 – February 10, 2005

our deepest gratitude for all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and for your sympathy.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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Training entrepreneurs via distance mode

By Paz Diaz
Contributor

YOU CAN train to be entrepreneurs in the comfort of your homes.

The UP Open University is a pioneer in providing opportunities for alternative access to quality UP education not only by offering undergraduate and graduate degree programs but also by running non-formal courses by distance mode. Development and delivery of non-formal courses began in earnest, soon after UPOU's creation in February 1995.

Two of the earliest courses conducted by the University of the Philippines Open University were the Personal Entrepreneurial Competency Course and the New Enterprise Development Course. This February, these courses, which have been developed in cooperation with the UP Institute for Small Scale Industries, will celebrate eight years of existence. The first batch of graduates, OFWs working in Hong Kong, received their certificates on Feb. 3, 1997. A recent addition to the UPOU's virtual entrepreneurial courses is the Introduction to e-Commerce course.

The growing demand for continuing education from various sectors (governments, individuals, their employers, and future employers), and the need for higher education institutions to rely less on public funding and generate their own income, have led a growing number of institutions to adopt new modes of educational delivery. These new modes include technology-supported distributed learning, also known as online learning or e-learning. The UP Open University led in this innovative means of reaching learners who otherwise are unable to physically attend face-to-face training.

Today's "knowledge society" resulted in an increasing demand for continuing education, both formal and nonformal. In the knowledge society, access to information and the ability to transform it into useful knowledge is the key to social and economic development. The nonformal courses on entrepreneurship development continue to give participants knowledge and skills through open learning.

What is open learning? Open learning is the alternative paradigm for teaching and learning whereby learning networks are created and where communities of learners work together to build and share knowledge through various ways, computer networks included.

There is a physical distance between tutor and learner, hence the virtual "classroom" is one or more computer conferences (shared, self-organizing discussion "spaces") where online discussions and project work form a significant part of the course. Other components are used, for example, videotapes, CD-ROMs, printed material, interactive web pages for posting course notes, or "virtual labs."

The learning networks are generally asynchronous, meaning "anytime, anyplace", learning can take place. Shared memory and collaborative learning are essential components of open learning. Open learning enables multiple perspectives to rise from the students' contributions and collaboration with peers enhances motivation for learning. Reflection is encouraged while student autonomy is a given. Students choose the time, the place and the pace for learning. Though it is possible for small groups to interact synchronously (same time), the idea of learning in different ways and different times is a motivating experience because no one is considered more superior than others, each one is able to contribute to everyone's learning and feel good about it.

Constructivist values—authentic assessment and alternative assessment procedures such as performance-based assessment, portfolio assessments, webquests, and collaborative evaluation—encourage learners to do things on their own because they are proud of their work and not dependent on others to do the learning for them. Quality assurance (accountability) promotes quality enhancement (improvement).

Successful use of technology in the implementation of distance education programs requires leadership and management skills on the part of administrators and managers of open learning schools. They should encourage innovation and see opportunities in change. Responsive leadership in the Philippines will surely rise to this challenge. It will not be technology for its own sake, miracles are not expected in a big way, but as research from local and foreign scenarios is pointing to the usefulness of open learning and distance education now and in the near future.

Because knowledge is growing at a rapid pace, as a result of rapid developments in information and communication technologies, lifelong learning has become the new policy imperative for many countries, including the Philippines.

Learners are able to keep up with current trends in various topics through the open learning mode. They receive a certificate after completing each course successfully. In the recent closing day of the personal entrepreneurial development course and new enterprise planning course, the participants set up a mini-fair and organized themselves into an association to help and motivate each other in their business endeavors.

In addition to its entrepreneurship development courses, the UPOU also offers nonformal training on Caring for the Special Child and Caring for the Older Person. It conducts a Certificate in Barangay Administration Program on the grassroots level, and the Information Technology in Health Research (ITHR) program.

Online course registration is available at www.upou.org. The courses are delivered face-to-face, online, or mixed-mode. In the face-to-face scheme, the learners are encouraged to attend the learning sessions at designated UPOU Learning Centers. In the online mode, the learners are requested to apply for a user ID and password to be able to access the respective course sites at the Integrated Virtual Learning Environment (IVLE). As online learners, they may also be encouraged to render at least one hour online presence per week for course announcements, chat, discussion, updates, and submission of requirements.

The UPOU hopes to develop and deliver more non-formal courses in the near future to be consistent with its motto: Lifelong learning for every Filipino; Lifelong Learning for all.

DOST Undersecretary Fortunato de la Peña discusses basic business points with a graduate of UPOU's Personal Entrepreneurial Development and New Business Creation Courses on Dec.18, 2004.

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CRAFTING wedding accessories is the proposed business of one graduate of UPOU's New Business Creation Course displayed at the Mini Fair held in UPOU.

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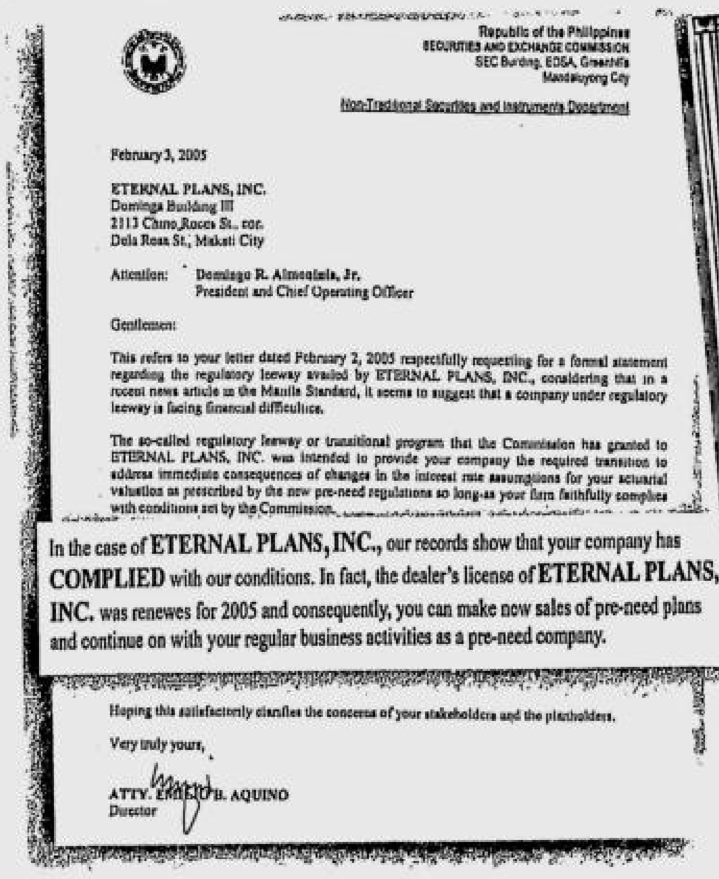


Republic of the Philippines
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
Mandaluyong City

Non-Traditional Securities and Instruments Department

February 3, 2005

ETERNAL PLANS, INC.
Dominga Building III
2113 Chino Roces St., cor.
Dela Rosa St., Makati City

Attention: Domingo R. Almeniala, Jr.
President and Chief Operating Officer

Gentlemen:

This refers to your letter dated February 2, 2005 respectfully requesting for a formal statement regarding the regulatory leeway availed by ETERNAL PLANS, INC., considering that in a recent news article in the Manila Standard, it seems to suggest that a company under regulatory leeway is facing financial difficulties.

The so-called regulatory leeway or transitional program that the Commission has granted to ETERNAL PLANS, INC. was intended to provide your company the required transition to address immediate consequences of changes in the interest rate assumptions for your actuarial valuation as prescribed by the new pre-need regulations so long as your firm faithfully complies with conditions set by the Commission.

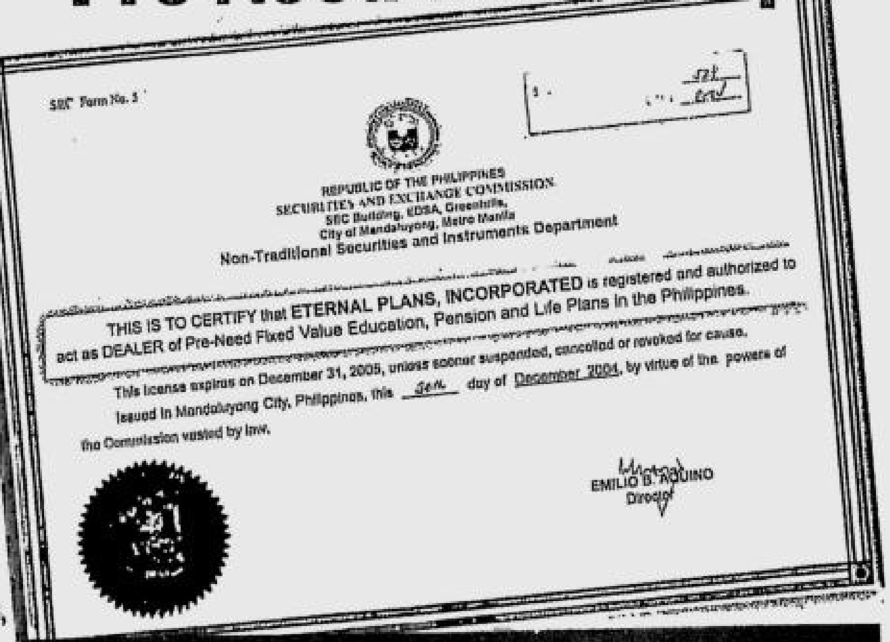
In the case of ETERNAL PLANS, INC., our records show that your company has COMPLIED with our conditions. In fact, the dealer's license of ETERNAL PLANS, INC. was renewes for 2005 and consequently, you can make new sales of pre-need plans and continue on with your regular business activities as a pre-need company.

Hoping this satisfactorily clarifies the concerns of your stakeholders and the planholders.

Very truly yours,

ATTY. EMILIO B. AQUINO
Director

SEC Certifies to our Pre-Need Dealership



SEC Form No. 5

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills,
City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila
Non-Traditional Securities and Instruments Department

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that ETERNAL PLANS, INCORPORATED is registered and authorized to act as DEALER of Pre-Need Fixed Value Education, Pension and Life Plans in the Philippines.

This license expires on December 31, 2005, unless sooner suspended, cancelled or revoked for cause. Issued in Mandaluyong City, Philippines, this 6th day of December 2004, by virtue of the powers of the Commission vested by law.

EMILIO B. AQUINO
Director

ADVISORY To all our Education Planholders

- For all those currently availing, starting March 14, 2005, you may get your education plan benefits for School Year 2005-2006 (1st Semester for college plan).
- For those availing for the first time, please submit the pertinent documents for immediate processing.

For assistance please contact our nearest branch or where you get your benefit checks, or call Telephone Nos. 02-818-9931 to 35.

* The Securities and Exchange Commission has not approved this advertisement or determined if this is accurate or complete. Any representation to the contrary constitutes a violation of the revised Securities Act and is criminally punishable. The public is encouraged to report immediately to the Securities and Commission any misrepresentation or false or innacurate statement.

RP's furniture makers need to focus on high-end market

THE COMING furniture show is expected to be swamped by foreign and local buyers because of the worldwide promotional campaign by CIFP.

THE PHILIPPINE export industry is eyeing a wider global playing field to post a turnaround in its world market sales.

This was revealed by the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines (CFIP), stressing the need to overcome the "one-sided concentration on one main market, the United States," which accounts for about 68 percent the country's total furniture exports.

CFIP consultant Gerhard Rainer cited strategic efforts to position Philippine furniture in the middle to the upper-end price segment, with concentration on sustainable indigenous raw materials and innovative designs in mixed media for a more varied country market portfolio.

"The way to go is to leave OEM (original equipment manufacturing) and to head for ODM (original design manufacturing) and continue to OBM (original brand manufacturing). Natural, indigenous and sustainable mixed media (abaca, capiz, sea grass, etc.) and product innovation based on materials and designs not available in overseas markets give competitive advantages," Rainer stressed.

"In the United States, the market is more and more divided into upper and lower segments, very much price driven. In the European Union, price matters, too, but eco-friendly products and production, social responsibility and occupational security are of increasing concern, leading to requirements for certification from customer protection agencies," Rainer explained.

He said the Philippines should enter into cooperation agreements with strategic partners overseas in regard to environment, quality standards, marketing, and developing and defining a market niche in which to thrive.

"The Philippines is, from its potential a top resource country, but it has to be in a more competitive position in regard to prices, quality and reliability," Rainer added.

In a bid to expand its global market reach, the CFIP is staging the Philippine International Furniture Show (PIFS), which will be held at the World Trade Center Metro Manila and the Philippine Trade Training Center from Feb. 28 to March 3, 2005.

PIFS 2005 is designed to attract foreign buyers from Italy, Spain, The Netherlands, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, France, Australia, United Kingdom, Japan, Thailand and the United States, among others.

To go on exhibit at the PIFS 2005 are a wide range of furniture products from some of the country's 2,500 exporting establishments out of around 15,000 furniture manufacturers, which generate a total of 481,500 regular jobs and 300,000 subcontractors.

PIFS 2005 is expected to be swamped by foreign and local buyers as a result of the extensive worldwide promotional campaign being undertaken by the CFIP.

More information on PIFS 2005 can be obtained from the CFIP (Tel. No. 6312834, fax 6312977, or email info@cfipnet.com).

TO GO on exhibit are a wide range of furniture products from some of the country's 2,500 exporting establishments.

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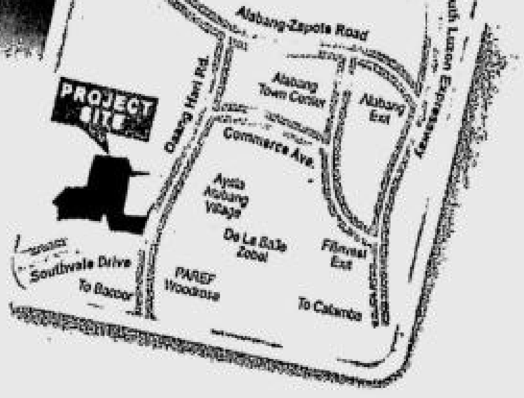
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CEO sees strengthened ties with employees as secret to success

ARTEFICIO

AS THE first Filipino to be appointed president and chief executive officer of Canon Marketing Philippines Inc. (CMPI), Ramon Arteficio hopes to inculcate strong values among his employees in order to sustain the firm's achievements in the past years.

According to Arteficio, Canon employees could expect him to play a more active role when it comes to cultivating better relationships amongst employees. He added that he expects to have more regular meetings with them so that he will be constantly in touch with developments and problems within the office.

"I am a firm believer in creating an atmosphere that encourages cooperation, motivation and esprit de corps," he said. "If the staff has a good working relationship amongst themselves, then I believe that CMPI will be able to achieve its goals or go even beyond them this year."

Arteficio said while he does not expect any major changes as he takes over the helm, he will make sure that he will make use of this advantage in communication in order to further develop the company and the people within."

Arteficio's appointment could not have come at a better time. CMPI grew from a P150-million company over a decade ago to a P1.8-billion company in 2004. In fact, CMPI was able to achieve the highest growth in Southeast Asia among its subsidiaries.

As of 2004, Canon's Philippine subsidiary grew by 28 percent in 2004 compared to 2003. Next to the Philippines is Malaysia with 25 percent growth followed by 16 percent in Thailand and 10 percent in India.

"As you can see, many of the Canon companies are all growing in Asia so my task now is to continue this growth and to improve in profitability," Arteficio said. "We grew by 28 percent and we made money because our income before tax is around P18 million so that's the first time in the last four years that we are making money."

Growth was also registered in the different products that Canon produces. The digital video group, Arteficio said, grew by 120 percent. Digital camera grew by about 80 percent. Analogue camera, which includes SLR, grew by about 40 percent and printers by 65 percent. Canon copiers grew by about 50 percent while projectors grew by around 60 percent. Scanners grew by around 15 percent and fax by around 11 percent.

However, Arteficio said that Canon still has a long way to go because it is still not number one in many products.

"We are targeting 25 percent growth this year but despite the forecasted slowdown, we still have a long way to go," he said. "That's because we are still lagging in other products so the growth potential is still there."

CMPI, Arteficio said, will continue to expand non-traditional channels. The brand is present in photo channels, information technology channels and the appliance channels. It will also be going into other channels like Internet selling, credit card selling and provincial selling.

A new line of Canon products can also be expected this year as the company reinvests 10 percent of its global net sales in research and development.

To strengthen its hold in the consumables market, Arteficio said Canon would be taking the lead in promoting the use of genuine inks. This is also part of Canon's strategy to minimize the effect of refills and fakes on its product.

"The consumables market is very tough nowadays because of the refill and the fakes. We did not grow in our consumables market mainly because of these factors," he said. "We came out with a new line of printers last year and these will require inks so our campaign now is for people to use genuine ink so that consumers realize that if they do not use genuine ink, they will lose their warranties."

New credit card offers two-tiered rate

WHEN was the last time you had enough for your shopping?

With a shoestring budget and today's prices, one doesn't get too far. It is true even with credit cards. When consumers are saddled with prohibitive interest rates, you won't go far with your card purchases, afraid of incurring burdensome interest charges.

East West Bank Mastercard is the only card that offers a two-tiered rate depending on the type of purchase. It's your best bet against other high-charging credit cards.

East West Bank MasterCard features the lowest interest rate of only 2.25 percent on basic purchases such as medicines, gasoline and groceries. Other cards normally charge an average of 3.25 percent on all types of purchases. Thus, compared to other credit cards, East West Bank actually offers a rate that's 30 percent less on basic purchases.

For lifestyle purchases, East West Bank MasterCard charges only 2.75 percent, about 15 percent lower than other similar cards in the market. So whether it's a basic or a lifestyle purchase, cardholders find enough room to spend more.

In addition, East West Bank MasterCard collects the lightest minimum amount due—only 3.5 percent of the total revolvable balance or P200, whichever is higher. This gives cardholders greater flexibility to manage their debt payments.

East West Bank MasterCard also gives cardholders the longest interest-free credit period of up to 54 days. Members enjoy zero interest from transaction date to payment due date if full balance is paid. Plus, cardholders enjoy a higher cash advance limit of as much as 50 percent of one's available credit.

East West Bank MasterCard also waives its membership fee for the first year. For the membership fee payment, cardholders may choose to pay monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually. Billing begins only on the second year.

Meantime the bank is converting its common trust funds (CTF) into the new unit investment trust funds (UITF) in compliance with the recent regulation of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas on trust placements (BSP Circular No. 447). The regulation is aimed at aligning the investments of pooled funds with international best practices, as well as offering more security to investors. Under the BSP rules, the UITF will be invested only in deposits, government securities, and instruments that are tradable or actively traded in the market.

The evolution of CTFs into UITFs will help spur the development of the domestic capital market, as transparent pricing and valuation of assets will give the market the degree of credibility by investors.

The assets of the funds will be put under the third-party custodians accredited by the BSP. They will undertake the independent mark-to-market valuation of the fund's assets. Mark-to-market is a valuation method whereby the assets are valued on their recent market prices. It is unlike the accrual method traditionally used by CTFs in which the interest earnings of the fund's investments are accrued or recognized as income.

The UITF uses the net asset value per unit (NAVPU) concept in establishing the value of investments in the fund. Using the real-time valuation, the UITF will reflect the market value of each of the fund's investment security, providing the investor an actual value of investment at any given banking day.

What's an ant got to do with it?

ANY local children's story always points out to the exceptional virtues of ants, their idea of "saving for the rainy days" eternally immortalized in many stories. These are insects that are small in size yet gifted with an accurate foresight of the future, something that serves as an inspiration for the human race.

These creepy-crawlies with a stinging bite but with hardworking and thrifty virtues were personified in the story entitled "Temyong Tipid."

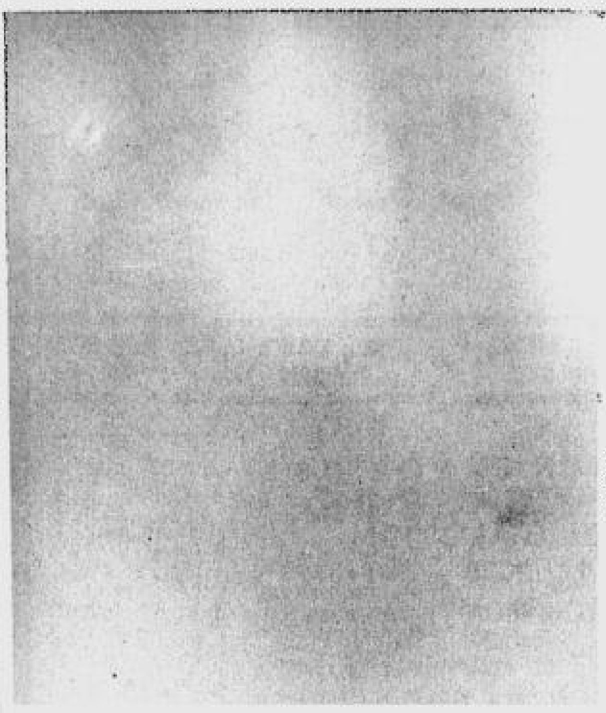
"Temyong Tipid" is an industrious ant which also serves as the symbol of the savings advocacy campaign initiated by The Real Bank, one of the country's top thrift banks.

Entitled "Bata, Bata ... Mag-impok at Magsinop," the advocacy project of The Real Bank empowers the children of today to save not just their money but also their invaluable resources in order to get something for the future. Temyong Tipid thus became the perfect symbol of the campaign, owing to ants' desirable traits.

The heartwarming story of Temyong Tipid also includes the story of a young gradeschooler named Alfred and his mother. In the story, Alfred is known as a spendthrift lad with a careless attitude. When coming home from school, he just throws away his school stuff anywhere in the house, with his mother left to pick up his mess. Aside from that, he shows a devil-may-care-attitude when handling his school materials like paper, notebooks and crayons.

This is where his mother enters the picture. Alfred's mother emphasizes to him the value of saving and taking care of whatever meager resources one has in hand, in order to have something for the future. The story, as a whole, teaches children that they are not too young to learn how to save, for saving knows no age limit.

The Real Bank, one of the country's trusted thrift banks, ties up with the Department of Education for this noteworthy endeavor as part of their 28th year of service to the Filipino banking community. And by using a popular symbol like the ant whose character kids know by heart, The Real Bank hopes to instill values formation of Filipino schoolchildren—now and in the future.



Little deeds of kindness,
Little words of love,
Help to make earth happy
Like the heaven above.

-Julia Carney,
Little Things

Today, the school children of Nueva Ecija
and Nueva Vizcaya have started to gather
Ipil-Ipil and Acacia seeds
for the Give-A-Seed Program
of CE Casecnan Water and Energy Company, Inc.

The Give-A-Seed Program is designed to raise
the awareness of young children on the importance
of trees in protecting the environment.
It calls on their active involvement to reforest
the denuded mountains in their provinces
to prevent flash floods.

The Give-A-Seed Program is a component
of the reforestation program being implemented
by CE Casecnan to rehabilitate the Casecnan Watershed.
It is part of a bigger environmental effort that the company
is undertaking to protect nature for the children
and the future generations. This is the commitment
of CE Casecnan as embodied in its
Environmental RESPECT Policy.

CE Casecnan has partnered with the National Irrigation
Administration, the Department of Education
and the school children of Nueva Ecija
and Nueva Vizcaya for this environmental program.

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RESIDENTIAL

MAKATI CITY	MIN BID
1. Condo.Unit-2544,4/F,Bldg-25 Guadalupe Mansion,JP Rzl Extn. Near MRT-Guadalupe / FA-67.20	1,828,000
Brgy. Singkamas beside Mktl. Coliseum	
2. *L-1 B-23/LA-282,Maskardo St	3,600,000
3. *L-2 B-23/LA-315,Maskardo St	4,023,000
* WITH EXISTING CASE *	
Kingswood Twr.- P. Tamo cor. V. Cruz	
4. Condo.-P'hse Unit-P2F,Twr-B 28th & 29th flrs / F.A.- 154	7,207,200
5. Condo.-P'hse Unit-P3F,Twr-B 26th & 27th flrs / F.A.- 154	7,207,200

PASIG CITY	MIN BID
6. 2-Sty.H&L / # 19 Luningning corner Lakambini Sts., Dona Andrea VIII-2,Rosano. LA-215 FA-248 / nr. Ever Gotesco Mall	1,438,000
7. Condo.-4BR, 5TB, Maid's Rm.- Pkng./Unit-2802 AIC Gold Twr. Emerald Ave / F.A.- 187.17 (near Robinsons & Poveda Schl)	6,900,000

MANILA – San Andres	MIN BID
8. 2-Sty.H&L/# 2459 Chromium St. LA-142 50 / FA-260 – near Estrada St.& Dela Salle Univ. * With Lis Pendens	2,272,000

QUEZON CITY	MIN BID
9. 2-Sty. H&L / # 10 Molave Dr-1 Nagkaisang Nayon, N'liches (via Gen.Luis & D. Malit St.) LA-400 / FA-81 * W/ Lis Pendens	1,542,000
10. H&L/# 269 M.Aquino St. Banlat Rd,T Sora LA-120 / FA-191 (near St Anthony Schl & NPC Subd)	1,700,000

MALABON- Brgy. Dampalit	MIN BID
North Merville Park-I Subdivision	
* With occupants *	
11. L-1 B-14, J.Cancio St/LA-186	190,000
12. Lot-19 Blk.-13-A / L.A.-168	215,000

MALABON – Hulong Duhat	MIN BID
13. H&L/# 8 Don Basilio Bautista Blvd. L.A.-886 / F.A.-847.40	7,100,000

VALENZUELA – Paso De Blas	MIN BID
14. 3-Sty. Bldg. / Lot-894-A-3, Mariano Laurel Dr, nr. Fortune Vill -4 LA-463/FA-809 *W/.Lis Pendens	6,031,000

CALOOCAN – Gracepark	MIN BID
15. Lot-25 & 26 Blk.-31, 2nd St LA-388 60- In bet. 3rd & 4th Ave	4,300,000

ANTIPOLO, RIZAL	MIN BID
16. L-20 B-17, Jerusalem St Ph-5 Brgy.Uulan/LA-120 (via Tikling Junction & Melendres Subd.)	332,000
17. L-23 B-10, Cottonwood Hts. Bayugo /LA-266 (near Sumulong)	2,049,000
18. L-21 B-2, Birchwood St, Cottonwood Hts, Bayugo / LA-355	2,734,000
19. Lot-47 Blk-18,Park Ridge Est. Ph -3 (via Valley Golf) LA-811	2,058,000
20. L-17 B-1, Beverly St, Sta. Barbara-1 Luxury Est,Mission Hills,Colaique/LA-1,021 (near Pines City)	4,102,000

ANGONO RZL.- via Antipolo	MIN BID
21. L-6 B-2, Mills St, Sta Monica Classic Est,Ph-3,Mission Hills Brgy Colaique/LA-540 (near Pines City)	2,096,000

SAN MATEO,RIZAL-Bo.Patiis	MIN BID
* No Right Of Way	
22. Lot B-15, Lot Area – 40,171	3,415,000
23. Lot B-16, Lot Area – 40,171	3,415,000
24. Lot B-17, Lot Area – 40,171	3,415,000
25. Lot B-18, Lot Area – 40,171	3,415,000

CAVITE	MIN BID
26. 3-Dr 2-Sty/Res'l Apt./Lot-15-A Rosalia Subd,Habay. LA-152 FA-206-Nr.SM Bacoor * W/ Lis Pendens	1,773,000
27. Lot-16 Block-1, Ph.-1, Brgy Baybay, Carmona / LA-1,224	6,577,000
Orchard Res'l. Estates and Golf & Country Club - Salitran, Dasmarinas, Cavite	
FAIRWAY LOTS	
28. Lot-27 Blk.-17 / L.A.- 828	3,147,000
29. Lot-52 Blk.-17 / L.A.- 1,130	4,294,000
30. Lot-93 Blk -48 / L.A - 783	2,976,000
NON - FAIRWAY LOTS	
31. Lot-09 Blk -37 / L.A - 672	2,016,000
32. Lot-35 Blk -37 / L.A.- 687	2,061,000
33. Lot-67 Blk -48 / L.A - 506	1,518,000

CAVITE- Naic, Brgy. Palangue	MIN BID
Mango Orchard Res'l. & Farm Estates	
34. Lot-5 Blk -18 / L.A - 1,468	1,468,000
35. Lot-5 Blk -19 / L.A - 964	964,000
36. Lot-6 Blk -19 / L.A.- 1,194	1,194,000
37. Lot-4 Blk -19-A / L.A.- 2,953	2,953,000
38. Lot-10 Blk -19-B / L.A - 2,245	2,245,000

RESIDENTIAL

BULACAN – Plaridel	MIN BID
Brgy. Lalangan - Plaridel Heights	
39. Corner, Lot-2 Blk-47, LA.-355	1,242,500
40. Corner, Lot-13 Blk-7, LA.-404	1,414,000
41. Corner, Lot-2 Blk-38, LA.-411	1,438,500
42. Inner, Lot- 25 Blk-8, LA.-350	1,155,000

BULACAN – Sta. Maria	MIN BID
Brgy.Guyong, Sunrays Vill.-beside Delfi	
43. Lot - 5 Blk. - 3 / L.A. - 70	210,000

BULACAN - MALOLOS	MIN BID
44. H&L / Lot 2 & 3 Blk-17,Desta Ave. cor. 1st St., Desta Hms. Brgy. Atlag. LA-515/FA-293.84 (near Sto. Cristo Diversion Rd.)	3,100,000

LAGUNA – Cabuyao	MIN BID
45. 2-Sty.Hse & Lot. Unit-1 Bellbart ELSOL Villas T'homes Poblacion. LA-107 FA-85 *nr. Mcdonalds	1,445,000

TAGAYTAY CITY	MIN BID
is between Sta. Rosa short-cut & Aguinaldo H-way	
46. Lot-8, Tagaytay-Calamba Rd. Tolentino-West (over looking Taal Lake) LA-2,156 *W/ Lis Pendens	20,000,000

TARLAC CITY	MIN BID
47. Agro-Indl / Lot-3871-D,Sapang Maragul,Tibag /LA-10,001-near arch	3,315,000

NUEVA ECIJA - Cab. City	MIN BID
# 529 Pag-Asa, Daan Sarili (near L.T.O.)	
48. Res'l. Lot 3-A-6 / LA-1,820.62	400,000
49. Res'l Lot 2-A / LA-2,535.36	1,388,000
50. 2 Sty. Res'l./ Lot-2-G N.L.A -1,861 9 / F.A -138	4,022,000

COMMERCIAL

MAKATI CITY	MIN BID
51. Condo. 5/F Millenium Plaza Mktl.Ave cor Eduque St/FA-261 24	17,765,000

MANILA	MIN BID
52. 2/F KP Twr.,CM Recto Ave. cor. Juan Luna St / FA-658	28,792,000

PARANAQUE	MIN BID
53. Lot-1-B & 1-C, San Dionisio Net LA-9,562 (back of SM & access beside Shell stn) *W/ Lis Pendens	25,161,000
54. Comm'l.Lot w/ Bldgs/ Lot 7-B Angelina Canaynay Ave., San Dionisio / LA-3,066 / FA-1,460 (Across Evacom) *Portion is on Lease	47,000,000

QUEZON CITY	MIN BID
55. Comm'l bldg/Lots 8&9 Blk-S-27 Timog Ave LA-1,380-FA-1,500 (nr.Unionbank Br. & GMA-7 *On Lease	70,000,000
56. Lot w/ Warehse/#185 Roosevelt Ave., San Francisco Del Monte / LA-5,641 / FA-3,454 (near Unionbank Br.-Del Monte)	140,000,000
57. Lot w/Warehse./ # 138 Gen Luis cor. Pasacola Rd., Brgy Nagkaisang Nayon,Novaliches L.A - 49,504 / F.A - 23,384	300,000,000

VALENZUELA CITY	MIN BID
58. Ind'l. Lot / Lot-2, 6-A, 4-A & B 3, 6-B-1 & 2, Maysan *No right of way* Net LA-12,516 (via Viongco St)	8,003,000
59. Warehse / Lot-13 Templanza St., Don Pedro Vill., Marulas LA-2,540/FA-3,314 -near Savory Rest.	20,232,000
60. Ind'l. Lot w/ 2 W'hses (14&16) Barracks, Canteen,Guardhse Lot-1075-D-1-C, Plastic City # 6 T.Santiago St, Canumay-West. LA-9,923 / FA-7,096	39,703,000
61. Ind'l. Lot w/ Warehouse, # 47 Maysan Rd,(near Maysan Elem Schl.) L.A -7,871 / F.A -7,040	40,702,000
62. Ind'l. Lot w/ Bldgs /Lot-382-G Plastic City Housing,Canumay L.A.-25,798 / F.A -5,310 (via T Santiago & Pinagbayanan Sts.)	51,000,000

NUEVA ECIJA - Cab. City	MIN BID
# 529 Pag-Asa, Daan Sarili (near L.T.O.)	
63. Agri. Lot /Lot-3-B/NLA-37,041	2,366,000
64. Comml. Lot w/ W'hse & Offc. Lot-2-H/NLA-2,260 67/FA-580	5,098,000

TAGUIG - Global City Fort Boni	MIN BID
(Infront of Adidas Sports Camp)	
65. Lot-3 Blk -18 / L.A - 1,643	164,300,000

TARLAC CITY	MIN BID
Town proper - infront of Ice plant	
66. Lot-4-C, Rizal St. / L.A.-759	8,093,000
67. Lot-4-B,Rizal cor.Panganiban Sts / L.A - 1,102	11,752,000

SARIAYA - QUEZON PROV.	MIN BID
68. Agri Lot w/ resl H&L,W'hse.& Piggery/Lot-6181-A-5-A-1-A-1-I Psd 4A-001202, Bo. Sampaloc TLA-101,038 65 / TFA-9,277 -near bridge	45,053,000

JUST BRING P20,000SHOW MONEY(CASH OR MC) TO QUALIFY TO BID FOR EACH PROPERTY. CWT IS FOR THE BUYER'S ACCOUNT. ALL PROPERTIES FOR SALE ARE ON "AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS. Unionbank may, at anytime, withdraw any of the properties listed above prior to auction.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

BEST MAIDS 8294261

Trusted Maids Yaya Boy 7672089

Yaya, Cook H'maid 8957507

LIPAT BAHAY

•731-6833•LIPAT

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

Cheap 9260424/09272207969

L-BAHAY 8383742/09208449984

P1200/TRIP 742-14-57

COMMERCIAL

MAKATI

9635 Kamagong St Makati 455 sqm P38T/sqm
9637 Kamagong St Makati 440 sqm P38T/sqm
Miramar 817-1589/91/94

HOUSE & LOT

MAKATI

MKT NR AYALA Bnew/Twnhse/3stry/3br/2 1/2tb/grge P3.720M up 8903461 loc 34

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOTS AVAILABLE

SOON TO RISE

AVAIL OF 10% PROMO DISCOUNT

CANYON WOODS RESIDENTIAL RESORT

The Ridge

1 to 3 Bedrooms

CONDOMINIUM IN TAGAYTAY

894-2534 • 687-5405 loc. 16

RUSH SALE

4-STOREY BLDG. with PENTHOUSE within Salcedo Vill., Makati City
Lot Area: - 1,091 sqm.
Floor Area: - 2,513 sqm.
Price - P150 Million (Net)
WITH AMPLE PARKING SPACES
Call: Cell.# 0917-8166601 (NENA)
DIRECT BUYERS ONLY

HOUSE & LOT

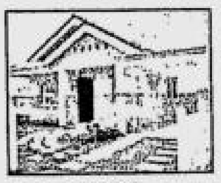
LAGUNA

HOUSE & LOT

LAGUNA

Ciudad de Calamba
Your new hometown
CALAMBA, LAGUNA
A Quality Development of Filinvest Land Inc.
www.filinvestland.com

GRAND OPEN HOUSE ON FEB. 20



SELENE

BIANCA

As low as P7,500 / mo.
FREE TRIPPING ON FEB. 19, 26 & 27
Free use of the amenities on our open house!

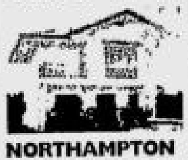
CHESTNUT

For inquiries, please call:
809-2582 / 842-3784

AVAIL OF OUR PROMO DISCOUNTS!
Pag-IBIG • Bank • In-house financing available

RIZAL

A happy family deserves a home at ...
Birmingham
MEADOWS • HOMES
RODRIGUEZ, RIZAL ANTIPOLO CITY
SUNRISE • PLACE
SAN MATEO RIZAL CAINTA RIZAL



NORTHAMPTON
3 BR 2 TB W/ BATH TUB & CARPORT
LOTS as low as P9T/Mo
H & L as low as P13T/Mo
Call: 655-0134 / 942-6877 630-6189 / 240-2361 475-4438 / 0318425
www.hdc-realstate.com

MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.8M 9487112

LA400m² with old hse along hiway 1.5M 0917-6997547

PARANAQUE

BN/4BR/3TB/Grg/Alio/P3.2M/09176216966 /8253416/09182418987

PARANAQUE

P3.2M NEG 8204685 SUCAT

PASIG

Greenwoods 3BR 3TB RFO 2M Terms Inhse 15 yrs to pay 0919-6782123/0921-5488282

KAPITOLYO 5BR 5TB 2PKG P11M 7460237/09178125791

VV2 H&L P9.8M LA 213sqm FA 330sqm 3BR 3TB MR w/ TB 2 Pkg 7460237 / 09178125791

QUEZON CITY

Bung/2sty/Twnhse 3BR-4BR P3M-P6M neg Bnk financing avlble. 09178997547

Cubao cor Notre Dame Ermin 09162869670 / 4224400 Baby

FAIRVIEW 300m² 3BR 2TB P2.5M 0919-2123441

Gilmore Ave New Mla 9110100

NR ARANETA CENTER/Makro (1)two stry hse, 2 bungalow LA302m² 0917-7499447

Rush Sale/Rent owner leaving #13 Admirable Lane Sanville Subd 9280672 Best offer only

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

QUEZON CITY

TANDANG SORA P2.1M NEG 3BR,TB, CG, NAWASA, PLDT W/AIRCON NR VISAYAS AVE 0920-9607526 / 9351681

RIZAL

Antipolo 648T LA36m² FA42m² DP23% 2stry 3BR 1TB 6442644 / 09198384254

BATANGAS

Maya² Batangas 180° View Fully Furnished. Act Now! Owner here till 3/1. See Ad BF01 www.island properties.com Price negotiable this month. Phone 09155354767 email aksorensen@hotmail.com

CAVITE

4 SALE HSE/LOT ALTAMONTE TGYTY NO RES NO DP NO INT NICE (0927)8729815

APPROX. 118SQM BUNGALOW ON 557SQM LOT W/ SEPARATE 2-DR RENTAL HOUSE AT THE BACK CALL:09154007913

AYALA WESTGROOVE PH4 BRAND NEW HOUSE 313sqm & lot 412sqm • fronting Kids Groove Clubhaus playgrnd & swimming pool. 5277616 • 0920-9503228 luk 4 Violy

CAMELLA HOMES BACOOR LA137m² FA198.90m² 5BR P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAGUNA

Ayala Sta. Rosa San Jose Vill Laguna bare-P1M semi-furnished-P2M Marg 3619953 / 3646696

BINAN P400T/mo 5201792

METROVILLE SUBD LA 122m² 2bdrms 1T&B FA61.28m² P1.2M Vic 8903461 loc 27

MILAN CAMELLA HOMES 3Stry FA210m² LA78m² P1.7M VIC 8903461 LOC 27/25

CONDO/TWNHSE

LAS PINAS

BF Southland 1.5 8006061

MAKATI

1.1M C5 Nr The Fort 10T/mo. or 4Yrs. No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8169849

1.2M RENT 2 OWN Nr D Fort 2-4br 10%dp Move In 15mins Fr Mkti 0927-9256243

RENT TO OWN! CONDO nr. Fort & Makati 2-4BR Fully Secured 16K monthly & 50K DP Anne • (0920) 236-0929

Condo nr. FORT MAKATI C5 Ortigas 2.5M 2BR 1T&B Carol • 0917-898 81 80

MKT NR AYALA BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/2 1/2tb/grge P3.720M up 8903461 loc 34

Own A Vacation Resort Condo Also Lots Nr Fort Ayala Mkti 2-4BR/P1M-P4M Use Pag-ibig Bnk Rent 2 Own 09178221107

RENT 2 OWN Condo Resort! 2BR P12T Nr Mkti RFO 09228086855

RES. CONDO. 3M to 7M up cash/terms, 1BR, 2BR, 3BR, W/PKG. LOC. MKT, QC, & ROXAS BLVD. T-750-8291/0927-7996662

RESORT TYPE CONDO 2-4BR GlobalCT nrDport 1.0M Up Comp't Amenit's Rent2Own PG-IBG Ok! 09206348545

ROCKWELL RIZAL TOWER, 263SQM. 3BEDROOMS (ALL EN-SUITE), DESIGNER CONDO, 3 PARKING. MAID'S. FURNISHED OR UNFURNISHED. CONTACT OWNER AT 09175303865

MANDALUYONG

CityLand Shaw 1BR 634-1212

ONE SAPPHIRE 40m² 2-Level P1.2M RFO Dec. '05 5780030 Danselan 10% D.P. Move In Call Tin' 09208474517

Paragon Plaza P2.2M 1BR w/pkg new & nice 531-3953

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

ORIENTAL GARDENS MAKATI READY FOR OCCUPANCY ONLY 20% DP TO MOVE IN OWN A CONDO FOR AS LOW AS P13T/month if yes then call: 541-7254 • 09165223435

PARANAQUE

MULTI NAT'L 177m² Up&Down semifurn 3br3tb mdsrm w/cr garage P3.5M nego Charo 8225479/5480Jimmy2548082

PASIG

Class A bes. Makro Cainta tescorealty.com 09275337250

OPEN HSE TODAY MALAYAN PLAZA ORTIGAS Studio 1&2BR Big Discount 632-7081 Cel0917-9707168

QUEZON CITY

2sty B/nw 7units 3BR3TB 2CG 4.9-5.3M 159 Sct. Limbaga Ext. 4388754 09228530530

5th Av Cubao Direct Buyers 9411759/0915-4037299

Alpha Vlc. 4br 3b 2car P7M 6341212

Bnew 3BR 3TB 1CG P2.8M nr QC Hall DENR 455-0724

B-new thouse conc 3stry 69 Asst. St. GSIS VIII QC nr sch church mkt 7271052

CUBAO Condo 1.5M 9126976

E. RODRIGUEZ ST NR. ST. LUKES HOSPITAL RESIDENTIAL STUDIO/2BR COMMERCIAL/CLINIC UNIT 2529664-65 2447924 09184423378 JEANIE

EASTWOOD 2BR 3BA + Mds Rm + Lndry Rm 77m² Panoramic River View 24Hr Sec 4.7M neg 09184845443

NEW 5BR 5TB nr UP/Ateneo 4.5M Down50% Bal Pay 5yrs call 9319452 / 09209218422

TEACHER'S VILL QC Brandnew Twnhse 6M 9132701 / 09189356366

Zab Novaliches Thse nr SM Fview 2BR 1.2M 4272575

SAN JUAN

3 BDRM 3.5M 5322270

Beautiful Penthse 255m² + Park + R'deck 3BR 4TB Exclnt loc. GHills Avail. for Urgent Sale P13M Call 2977534

OTHER AREAS

Royale Tagaytay Townhse P3.5M only 09275222683

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2 sty Apt. 356 sqm 3333 Zapote cor Mancha P10M 6316936 / 6378080

LOT

KALOOCAN

Rainbow Village 5 LA 216m² P3,473/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

VILLA ANGELICA LA279m² FA157m² 4br 3tb P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc 27

MAKATI

27 Tampingco San Lorenzo 468 Sqm P20.5 MM
29 Tampingco San Lorenzo 562 Sqm P24.5 MM
Miramar 8171589/91/94

PARANAQUE

4SALE 24,896sqm @26,500 /sqm MACAPAGAL AVE COR. PACIFIC AVE (0927)8729815

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA333m² P4,064/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CLUB SHARE & MEMBERSHIP

SOUTH FORBES GOLFCITY
VIA SANTA ROSA
- FREE GOLF MEMBERSHIP
- WORLD CLASS AMENITIES
- CHAMPION LOCATION

FERDIE DE JOYA
0927-3303763
0919-8622022
SOUTH FORBES BROKER
GOLF LIFE. GOOD LIFE.

SOUTH FORBES GOLFCITY
VIA SANTA ROSA
- FREE GOLF MEMBERSHIP
- WORLD CLASS AMENITIES
- CHAMPION LOCATION

YOLANDA MALLARI
0927-2526114
SOUTH FORBES BROKER
GOLF LIFE. GOOD LIFE.

LOT

QUEZON CITY

415m² @ P6.5T/m² Banlat T. Sora Dist. 7497916 / 09205760022

G'view Lot 09202283164

LIBIS QC 204m² 6400544

MURPHY 14TH AVE NR LIBERTY 0919-2123441

RIZAL

Beverly Hills Lot 842-5621

OTHER AREAS

300m² 5Yrs 0% Int 6286238

CTLAND LOT 09202283164

TAG CITY 669m² 7T/m² 4585167 Gie

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240m² P3,125/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

OTHER PROVINCIAL

315 m² Lot Rydl Tgaytay 5642622 09189064095

CANYONWOODS 352SQM W/VIEW TEL. 8509644 AFTER OFF. HRS

BATANGAS

2has San Juan P65m² (7)Lot 500m² P750m² Sto Tomas 0918-4204333

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA613m2 P2,284/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P165/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA128m2 P2,900/m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA149.30m² P6,028/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA120m² P5,750/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

ST. CHARBEL DASMA nr SM 371m² P2,650/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAGUNA

3has Calamba Lot 842-5621

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m2 LA240m2 Vic 8903461 loc 25/27

OFFICE SPACE

Chatham House 719sqm near Ayala,Makati P35T/sqm Miramar 817-1589/91/94

MEMORIAL LOT

FORT BONIFACIO HERITAGE PARK
AS LOW AS P20,000.00 PER MARKER
AGENTS WELCOME
Tel. 4265935/9307415/09196226514

Holy Cross Memorial Plot Lot A- H, Blk 54, Court of Inspiration Value P600T, Selling P300T Call Doming 0917-7934436

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

ASIATRUST Bank

Slash-off
PROPERTY AUCTION

20% Downpayment

11% Fixed for 1st Five years

Market Rate on the [illegible] year

9 am to 12 noon, March 12, 2005
11th Floor, Asiatrust Bank Bldg.,
1424 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City

CALOOCAN

ATB01 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 120 sqm. F.A. 192 sqm.
Vista Verde Exec. Vill.
Min. Bid Price P 1,470,000

ORTIGAS AVENUE

ATB02 - RSDL. CONDO
F.A. 67.69 sqm.
Parc Royale Condo
Min. Bid Price P 2,000,000

MAKATI

ATB03 - COMM'L CONDO.
F.A. 34.79 sqm.
Cityland, De la Rosa
Min. Bid Price P 900,000

ATB04 - COMM'L CONDO.
F.A. 37.29 sqm.
Cityland, De la Rosa
Min. Bid Price P 900,000

ATB05 - RSDL. CONDO.
F.A. 127 sqm.
Heart Tower Bldg., Valero St.
Min. Bid Price P 4,572,000

MANILA

ATB06 - RSDL. CONDO.
F.A. 44.63 sqm.
Burgundy Westbay Tower, Malate
Min. Bid Price P 2,500,000

ATB07 - 2 STRY TWNHSE
L.A. 60 sqm. F.A.100 sqm.
V. Mapa, Sta. Mesa
Min. Bid Price P 850,000

MUNTINLUPA

ATB08 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 405 sqm. F.A. 476 sqm.
Pleasant Village, Putatan
Min. Bid Price P 5,000,000

PASAY

ATB09 - RSDL. CONDO
F.A. 26.74 sqm.
Park Avenue Mansion, Park Ave.
Min. Bid Price P 750,000

ATB10 - RSDL. CONDO.
F.A. 129.93
Sunset View Condo., Roxas Blvd.
Min. Bid Price P 4,500,000

QUEZON CITY

ATB11 - COMM'L LOT
L.A. 4,341 sqm.
In front of Residenza Subd., Camarin
Min. Bid Price P 30,387,000

ATB12 - COMM'L LOT
L.A. 3,434 sqm.
In front of Residenza Subd., Camarin
Min. Bid Price P 24,038,000

ATB13 - 2-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 300 sqm. F.A. 191 sqm.
Villa Chun Subd., Fairview
Min Bid Price P 4,200,000

ATB14 - 2-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 150 sqm. F.A. 270 sqm.
C. Francisco St., North Susana Village
Min Bid Price P 4,000,000

ATB15 - 2-STRY TWNHOUSE
L.A. 70 sqm. F.A. 90 sqm.
Villa Verde Subd., Novaliches
Min. Bid Price P 950,000

ATB16 - 2-STRY TWNHOUSE
L.A. 70 sqm. F.A. 90 sqm.
Villa Verde Subd., Novaliches
Min. Bid Price P 850,000

ATB17 - 2-STRY TWNHOUSE
L.A. 35 sqm. F.A. 50.8 per unit
West Cluster Garden, Fairview
Min. Bid Price P 1,100,000

LITTLE BAGUIO, SAN JUAN

ATB18 - 4-STRY TWNHOUSE
L.A. 62 sqm. F.A.107.5
#74 Jose Abad Santos, Little Baguio
Min. Bid Price P 5,600,000

ANTIPOLO, RIZAL

ATB19 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,000 sqm.
Near Hinulugan Taktak
Min Bid Price P 980,000

ATB20 - 1-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 35 sqm. F.A. 24.75 sqm.
L3 B5 Louisville Subd., Brgy. Cupang
Min. Bid Price P 230,000

ATB21 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 35 sqm. F.A. 42.5 sqm.
L24 B1 Louisville Village, Brgy. Cupang
Min. Bid Price P 100,000

ATB22 - 1-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 41.28 sqm. F.A. 58.75 sqm.
L7 B2 Louisville Vill.
Min. Bid Price P 300,000

ATB23 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 257 sqm
ABBA Homes Subd.
Min. Bid Price P 400,000

ATB24 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 299 sqm. F.A. 111 sqm.
#2 Sta. Rosario St., Milagros Subd.
Min. Bid Price P 1,280,000

ATB25 - 9 RSDL LOTS
L.A. 1,284 sqm.
Sta. Rosario St., Milagros Subd.
Min. Bid Price P 1,568,000

ATB25A - RSDL LOT
L.A. 299 sqm
Sta. Rosario St., Milagros Subd.
Min. Bid Price P 518,000

ATB25B - RSDL LOT
L.A. 514 sqm.
Sta. Rosario St., Milagros Subd.
Min. Bid Price P 1,058,000

ATB25C - RSDL LOT
L.A. 153 sqm.
Sta. Rosario St., Milagros Subd.
Min. Bid Price P 706,800

ATB26A - RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,500 sqm.
Golden Hills Subd.
Min Bid Price P 1,050,000

ATB26B - RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,400 sqm.
Golden Hills Subd.
Min. Bid Price P 1,848,200

ATB27 - BUNGALOW HOUSE
L.A. 96 sqm. F.A. 85 sqm.
Brgy. Mambugan, Antipolo
Min Bid Price P 621,500

ATB28 - ROWHOUSE
L.A. 42 sqm. F.A. 40.75 sqm
L9 B2 Louisville Subd.
Min Bid Price P 284,000

ATB29 - ROWHOUSE
L.A. 35 sqm. F.A. 24 sqm.
L15 B3 Louisville Subd.
Min. Bid Price P 211,000

ATB30 - ROWHOUSE
L.A. 35 sqm. F.A. 28 sqm
L12 B7 Louisville Subd.
Min. Bid Price P 318,000

ATB31 - ROWHOUSE
L.A. 70 sqm. F.A. 56
L6 B9 Louisville Subd.
Min. Bid Price P 264,000

ATB32 - ROWHOUSE
L.A. 70 sqm. F.A. 56 sqm
L8 B9 Louisville Subd.
Min. Bid Price P 261,000

ATB33 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 204 sqm.
Village East Binangonan Rizal
Min. Bid Price P 510,000

ATB34 - ROWHOUSE
L.A. 89.5 sqm. F.A. 48 sqm.
Lamar Village, San Mateo, Rizal
Min. Bid Price P 645,000

ATB35 - 2-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 150 sqm. F.A. 92 sqm.
Vista Verde Subd., Cainta
Min. Bid Price P 1,054,000

ATB36 - 2- STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 48 sqm. F.A. 36 sqm.
Cherry Ville Subd., Taytay
Min. Bid Price P 564,000

ATB15 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 92.73 sqm. F.A. 33 sqm.
Brentwood Subdivision
Min. Bid Price P 740,000

BAGUIO

ATB37A - RSDL. LOT
L.A. 666 sqm.
Monterrazas Village, [illegible]
Min. Bid Price P 1,328,100

ATB37B - RSDL. LOT
L.A. 418 sqm
Monterrazas Village, [illegible]
Min. Bid Price P 709,000

BATANGAS

ATB38 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 237 sqm. F.A. 118.85 sqm.
#279 Diversion Highway
Min Bid Price P 800,000

ATB39 - RSDL. LOT
L.A. 230 sqm.
Calumala Subdivision, Bauan
Min. Bid Price P 150,000

ATB40 - 3-STRY HOUSE
L.A. 203 sqm.
Batangas City
Min Bid Price P 8,500,000

ATB41 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 159 sqm. F.A. 40 sqm.
Greenvalley Subd., Poblacion San Pascual
Min. Bid Price P 398,700

ATB42 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 139 sqm.
Greenvalley Subd., Poblacion, San Pascual
Min. Bid Price P 179,400

ATB43 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 147 sqm.
Greenvalley Subd. Poblacion, San Pascual
Min. Bid Price P 213,000

ATB44 - RSDL. LOT
L.A. 598 sqm.
Brgy. Bolbok, Batangas City
Min. Bid Price P 598,000

ATB45 - RSDL. LOT
L.A. 712 sqm.
Golden Country Homes, Alangilan
Min. Bid Price P 994,800

ATB46 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 267 sqm.
Sta. Maria St., Barrio Sambat-Balsa
Min. Bid Price P 1,068,000

ATB47 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 201 sqm
De Jesus St., Barrio Cuta
Min. Bid Price P 812,000

ATB48 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 351 sqm. Sto. Niño Village, Bo. Libjo
Min. Bid Price P 1,059,000

BULACAN

ATB49 - IND'L LOT
L.A. 3,333 sqm.
Meycauayan Ind'l Subd.
Min. Bid Price P 9,340,000

ATB50 - IND'L LOT
L.A. 2,379 sqm
Meycauayan Ind'l Subd.
Min. Bid Price P 6,660,000

ATB51 - WAREHOUSE
L.A. 305 sqm. F.A. 376 sqm.
798 G.I Carlos St., Baliuag
Min. Bid Price P 1,000,000

ATB52 - 2-STRY RSDL. BLDG.
L.A. 250 sqm. F.A. 101.75 sqm
Gov. Padilla St., Plaridel
Min. Bid Price P 900,000

ATB53 - POULTRY FARM
L.A. 21,532 sqm. F.A. 1,134 sqm.
Matangtubig, Baliuag
Min. Bid Price P 5,170,000

ATB54 - POULTRY FARM
L.A. 68,210 sqm. F.A. 64.8 sqm.
San Idelfonso
Min Bid Price P 5,120,000

CAVITE

ATB55 - SCHOOL BLDG.
L.A. 341 sqm.
Prima Homes, Alapan
Min. Bid Price P 2,500,000

ATB56 - 2-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 60 sqm. F.A. 130 sqm.
San Rafael Exec. Villa, Bacoor
Min Bid Price P 900,000

ATB57 - 2-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 60 sqm. F.A. 51.58 sqm
San Rafael Exec. Villa, Bacoor
Min Bid Price P 600,000

ATB58 - 11 TWNHOUSE UNITS
L.A. 44 sqm. F.A. 70 sqm. per unit
Gold Rich Villas, Bacoor
Min. Bid Price P 6,600,000

ATB58A - Townhouse Unit
L.A. 44 sqm. F.A. 70 sqm.
Gold Rich Villas, Bacoor
Min. Bid Price P 750,000

ATB59 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 150 sqm.
South Plains Exec Vill., Dasma
Min Bid Price P 375,000

ATB60 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 150 sqm
Metropoli Green, Gen. Trias
Min Bid Price P 330,000

ATB61 - RESORT GOLF LOTS
L.A. 127 sqm
Eagleridge Subdivision, Gen. Trias
Min. Bid Price P 1,281,000

ATB62 - RESORT GOLF LOT
L.A. 610 sqm.
Eagleridge Subdivision, Gen. Trias
Min. Bid Price P 1,854,000

ATB63 - RESORT GOLF LOT
L.A. 570 sqm.
Manila Southwoods, Carmona
Min. Bid Price P 2,280,000

ATB64 - RESORT GOLF LOT
L.A. 439 sqm
Manila Southwoods, Carmona
Min. Bid Price P 1,756,000

ATB65 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 375 sqm.
Manila Southwoods, Carmona
Min. Bid Price P 1,500,000

ATB66 - ROWHOUSE
L.A. 40 sqm. F.A.26.6 sqm.
Mary Cris Homes, Alapan, Imus
Min. Bid Price P 220,000

ATB67 - ROWHOUSE
L.A. 40 sqm. F.A.40 sqm.
Mary Cris Homes, Imus
Min. Bid Price P 204,000

ATB68 - ROWHOUSE
L.A. 375 sqm. F.A.26.6 sqm.
Mary Cris Homes, Imus
Min. Bid Price P 205,000

CEBU

ATB69 - RSDL. CONDO.
TRINITY PLAZA, Gorordo Avenue
F.A. 32.30 Min. Bid P 984,490
F.A. 33.97 Min. Bid P 951,160
F.A. 53.05 Min. Bid P 1,485,450

ISABELA

ATB70 - 4-STRY RSDL BLDG
L.A. 11,277 sqm. F.A. 1160
Malapat, Cordon, Santiago City
Min. Bid Price P 23,350,000

ATB71 - AGRI LAND
L.A. 12,687 sqm.
Maharlika H-way, Batal, Santiago City
Min. Bid Price P 1,522,000

ATB72 - AGRI LOT
L.A. 4,306 sqm.
Brgy. Ramos, San Isidro
Min. Bid Price P 275,000

ATB73 - AGRI LOT
L.A. 19,513 sqm.
Brgy. Arabiat, Echague
Min. Bid Price P 932,000

ATB74 - AGRI LOT
L.A. 11,250 sqm.
Bo. Quezon, San Isidro
Min. Bid Price P 765,000

ATB75 - AGRI LOT
L.A. 850 sqm.
Bo. Ramon, San Isidro
Min. Bid Price P 204,000

ATB76 - 2 RSDL LOTS
L.A. 35,908 sqm.
Maharlika H-way, San Mateo
Min Bid Price P 3,506,000

ATB77 - 2 RSDL LOTS
L.A. 3,806 sqm
Maharlika H-way, Sinsayon
Min Bid Price P 1,600,000

ATB78 - 2 RSDL LOTS
L.A. 15,710 sqm.
San Mateo H-way, San Mateo
Min. Bid Price P 2,154,000

ATB79 - 4-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 531 sqm.
Panganiban Street, Santiago City
Min. Bid Price P 1,800,000

ATB80 - COMM'L LOT
L.A. 853 sqm.
City Road, Santiago City
Min. Bid Price P 8,000,000

ATB81 - 4 RSDL LOTS
L.A. 1,164 sqm
Patul Road, Santiago City
Min Bid Price P 1,519,000

ATB82 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 308 sqm
Bang Bang Road, Rosario
Min. Bid Price P 192,000

ATB83 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 300 sqm.
Alvarez, Plaridel
Min. Bid Price P 348,000

ATB84 - 3 RSDL LOTS
L.A. 406 sqm
Alicia San Mateo Road, Alicia
Min. Bid Price P 2,180,000

ATB85 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,299 sqm.
Purok Banyag, Alicia
Min Bid Price P 1,319,000

ATB86 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,704 sqm
Veneza Street, Cordon, Santiago City
Min. Bid Price P 1,660,000

LAGUNA

ATB87 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 161 sqm. F.A. 45 sqm.
San Jose Village, Biñan
Min Bid Price P 950,000

ATB88 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 134 sqm F.A. 45 sqm.
San Jose Village II, Phase 5, Biñan
Min Bid Price P 850,000

ATB89 - RSDL. LOT
L.A. 300 sqm.
Las Villas De Manila, Biñan
Min. Bid Price P 1,500,000

ATB90 - 1-STRY WAREHOUSE
L.A. 262 sqm. F.A. 241 sqm
Brgy. San Isidro, Calauan
Min. Bid Price P 960,000

QUEZON

ATB91 - Poultry Farm
L.A. 80,000 sqm.
Brgy. Mangilag 3, Candelaria
Min. Bid Price P 6,400,000

TARLAC

ATB92 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 2,555 sqm
#19 Mc Arthur H-way, Moncada
Min. Bid Price P 500,000

TAGAYTAY

ATB93 - RESORT LOT
CANYON WOODS
L.A. 300 Min. Bid P 1,800,000
L.A. 319 Min. Bid P 1,914,000
L.A. 405 Min. Bid P 2,430,000
L.A. 477 Min. Bid P 2,862,000
L.A. 557 Min. Bid P 3,342,000
L.A. 630 Min. Bid P 3,780,000

ATB94 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 647 sqm.
Pacific Heights Subd., Calasa
Min Bid Price P 3,882,000

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CALOOCAN

Lot 1 - Res'l Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 225 sqm L33 Blk21 Cottonwood St, Rainbow Vill 5 Ph3, Brgy Deparo
Minimum Bid Price P 1,816,650.00

LAS PIÑAS

Res'l. Twnhse, RoyalSouth Townhomes, Brgy. Talon Singko
Lot 2 – L10 Blk16 FA 63 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 915,000.00
Lot 3 – L9 Blk16 FA 65 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 907,500.00
Lot 4 – L21 Blk16 FA 78 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 970,500.00
Lot 5 – L28 Blk16 FA 120 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,075,000.00

Res'l. Lots, Royal South Townhomes, Brgy. Talon Singko
Lot 6 – L1-3 Blk14 LA 149 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 745,000.00
Lot 7 – L3&4 Blk16 LA 155 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 775,000.00

MANILA

Lot 8 - Comm'l. Lot LA 679 sqm
#769 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz
Minimum Bid Price P 13,578,000.00

MUNTINLUPA

Lot 9 - Res'lw/ Imprvmnt (w/ swimming pool) LA 1,333 sqm, FA 580 sqm
#213 Calachuchi St, Ayala Alabang Vill. (Ph3-A2), Brgy. Alabang
Minimum Bid Price P 21,000,000.00

PARAÑAQUE

Lot 10 - Res'l. Lot LA 356 sqm
L12 Blk14, Cadena de Amor St, United Parañaque 4, San Dionisio
Minimum Bid Price P 1,330,000.00

Lot 11 - Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 240 sqm L28 Blk9 Doña Leonila St (Rd Lot 7), Irenevile-1 Subd, San Dionisio
Minimum Bid Price P 1,272,000.00

Lot 12 - Res'l. Lot LA 435 sqm
L26 Blk26 Fernwood Circle, Marcelo Green Vill Ph2
Minimum Bid Price P 2,427,840.00

PASIG

Comm'l Condo , Taipan Place Condo Emerald Ave., Ortigas
Lot 13 – Unit 1204 FA 128.98 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 4,613,185.00
Lot 14 – Unit 1205 FA 127.33sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 5,033,880.00

QUEZON CITY

Lot 15 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 924 sqm, FA 439 sqm
18 (Formerly 22) Rosa Alvero St, Xavierville Subd II, Loyola Heights
Minimum Bid Price P 13,361,400.00

Lot 16 – Res'l. Condo FA 44 sqm
Unit 610 PrinceJun Condo,TimogAve
Minimum Bid Price P 1,126,400.00

Lot 17 – Comm'l Lot LA 2,401 sqm
Lot12-B.14-B & 16-B Aurora Blvd. near cor Gilmore St., Brgy Valencia, Cubao
Minimum Bid Price P 82,500,000.00

Lot 18 – Res'l. Lot LA 300 sqm
L7 Blk8 Mt. Whitney St., Filinvest Homes 1, Capitol District
Minimum Bid Price P 1,912,500.00

Lot 19-Res'l.Lot w/Imprvmnt
LA 282 sqm 401 Rosas St. (L1 Blk5), Villa Verde Homes, Brgy. Santa Monica, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price P 1,943,788.00

QUEZON CITY

Lot 20 - Res'l. Twnhse FA118.38sqm
Unit 4-A Alpha Victoria Homes, 14th St. cor Victoria Ave. Brgy. Damayan Lagi, New Manila
Minimum Bid Price P 7,675,500.00

Lot 21 – Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA406.70sqm #16(Lot17)&#18(Lot19) PajoSt.Quirino 2-A/QuirinoDist. Proj 2
Minimum Bid Price P 4,148,340.00

Lot 22 - Res'l. Lot LA 400sqm
L28 Blk148 PalmanovaSt, Neopolitan V (CasaMilan)BrgyPasongPutikNovaliches
Minimum Bid Price P 1,440,000.00

Lot 23 - Comm'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA1,343sqm, FA1,870sqm Kianbin Bldg.Corregidor corAbraSts.BagoBantay
Minimum Bid Price P 30,000,000.00

Lot 24 - Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 77sqm, FA 97.50sqm Road Lot 849-C-4-C, Towerville Homes, Brgy Culiat
Minimum Bid Price P 1,019,200.00

SAN JUAN

Lot 25 – Res'l. Condo. LA 289.50sqm
Unit 507, 5/F Continental Court, 47 Annapolis St., Greenhills
Minimum Bid Price P 7,320,600.00

VALENZUELA

Lot 26 - Res'l. Lots LA 600 sqm
L9-12 Blk1 Vista Verde North Exec Subd. Ph1-C, Brgy Lawang Bato
Minimum Bid Price P 1,530,000.00

Lot 27 -Res'l. Condo FA 280.10sqm
Unit 4 Jade Garden Condo. & Townhomes. Don Pedro St, Brgy. Marulas
Minimum Bid Price P 3,529,235.00

Lot 28 – Res'l. Lot LA 539 sqm
L4-B-2-E Tomasa St., Brgy. Parada
Minimum Bid Price P 1,164,240.00

BATANGAS

Lot 29 - Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 311 sqm, FA 240 sqm
Provincial Rd., Brgy. San Jose, Alitagtag
Minimum Bid Price P 715,300.00

Lot 30 - Res'l. Lot LA 540 sqm
Lot 4 Malvar St. Poblacion, Lipa City
Minimum Bid Price P 2,079,000.00

Lot 31 – Res'l. Lot LA 288 sqm
L24 B7Anastacia St., VillaRosaSubd, Brgy Antipolo del Norte, Lipa City
Minimum Bid Price P 604,800.00

Res'l. Lots, Burgos St. Lipa Royale Subd. Brgy. Inosluban, Lipa City
Lot 32 – L11 Blk5 LA 150 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 446,250.00
Lot 33 – L12 Blk5 LA 150 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 446,250.00
Lot 34 – L13 Blk5 LA 150 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 446,250.00

Res'l. Lots, Tierra Vista Subd, Brgy. Sabang, Lipa City
Lot 35 – L29 Blk20 LA 208.79 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 396,701.00
Lot 36 – L34 Blk20 LA 150 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 297,000.00
Lot 37 – L5 Blk22 LA 149.51 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 296,030.00
Lot 38 – L7 Blk22 LA 149.72 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 284,069.00
Lot 39 – L2 Blk12 LA 509 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 916,200.00

Lot 40 - Res'l. Lot LA 211 sqm
Lot6672-F Rd. Lot 6672-K Brgy. 2 Poblacion, Mataas na Kahoy
Minimum Bid Price P 474,750.00

BATANGAS

Lot 41 - Res'l. Lot LA 220 sqm
Lot6672-G Rd. Lot 6672-K Brgy. 2 Poblacion, Mataas na Kahoy
Minimum Bid Price P 495,000.00

Lot 42 - Res'l. Lot LA 150 sqm
Rd. Lot 32 Victomar Subd, Brgy 4, Poblacion, Mataas na Kahoy
Minimum Bid Price P 378,000.00

Res'l. Lots, Las Villas de Aguila, Brgy. Bagong Sikat, Poblacion, Lemery
Lot 43 – L10 Blk5 LA 157.50 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 637,875.00
Lot 44 – L11 Blk5 LA 157.50 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 637,875.00
Lot 45 – L13 Blk5 LA 157.50 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 637,875.00
Lot 46 – L8 Blk3 LA 175 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 708,750.00

Res'l Lots, Rancho Vista Subd, Brgy. Santiago, Santo Tomas
Lot 47 – L16 Blk5 LA 725 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,522,500.00
Lot 48 - L44 Blk5 LA 469 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,055,250.00
Lot 49 - L19 Blk1 LA 867 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,820,700.00

CAVITE

Lot 50 - Res'l. Lot LA 775 sqm
Lot10484-A Maguyam Rd, Brgy. Maguyam, Silang
Minimum Bid Price P 1,743,750.00

Lot 51 - Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA106sqm,FA83sqm L13 Blk19 Brazil St, FrancevilleExec.Homes, Bulihan,Silang
Minimum Bid Price P 933,486.00

Lot 52 – Res'l. Lot LA 163 sqm
L21 Blk8 Edelweiss St, NeighborhoodArea A, Park Place Subd., Brgy. Anabu, Imus
Minimum Bid Price P 735,300.00

Lot 53 - Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 240 sqm 416 Cabbs Subd. Brgy. Daang Amaya, Tanza
Minimum Bid Price P 703,891.00

LAGUNA

Res'l. Lots, La Mama Ph1, San Pedro
Lot 54 **WITHDRAWN**
Lot 55 **WITHDRAWN**
Lot 56 - L18 Blk 8 LA 206 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,071,200.00

Lot 57-Res'l. w/ Imprvmnt (w/ swimming pool) LA 636sqm, FA 234sqm
L2&1 Blk1 Jamaica Hills Subd, Brgy. Bambang, Los Baños
Minimum Bid Price P 2,716,827.00

Res'l. Lots, Town & Country Southville Ph7, Biñan
Lot 58 – L3 Blk31 LA 112 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 257,600.00
Lot 59 – L5 Blk31 LA 112 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 257,600.00
Lot 60 – L38 Blk30 LA 120 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 276,000.00

Res'l. Lots, Monte Cecilia Subd, Brgy. Pittland, Cabuyao
Lot 61 – L1 Blk4 LA 1,160 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 2,510,543.00
Lot 62 – L2 Blk4 LA 1,160 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 2,489,446.00

Res'l. Lots, Richwood Park Vill., Brgy. San Francisco, San Pablo
Lot 63 – L62 Blk9 LA 75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 127,500.00
Lot 64 – L61 Blk9 LA 75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 127,500.00
Lot 65 – L57 Blk9 LA 75 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 127,500.00

RIZAL

Lot 66 - Res'l. Lot LA 805 sqm
L10 Blk10 Azucena Drive & Beverly Hills Subd. Brgy. Dolores, Taytay
Minimum Bid Price P 1,610,000.00

Lot 67 - Res'l. Lot LA 1,939 sqm
Lots35-37 Blk7 Golden Shower Drive, Villa Grande Subd. Brgy. Cupang, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price P 2,617,500.00

Lot 68 - Res'l. Lot LA 320 sqm
L10&12 Blk13 Ph1 Philadelphia St., Parkhills Exec. Vill., Brgy.Inarawan,San Isidro, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price P 560,000.00

Lot 69 - Res'l. w/ Imprvmnt
LA 419sqm,FA 134sqm #2 Iloilo St. cor AntiqueSt. Banker Vill.Ph1, Brgy. Dela Paz, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price P 874,500.00

Res'l Lots, Vill. East II, Binangonan & Angono
Lot 70 – L43 Blk62-A LA 204 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 306,000.00
Lot 71 – L45 Blk62-A LA 204 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 306,000.00
Lot 72 – L47 Blk62-A LA204 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 306,000.00
Lot 73 – L54 Blk 63 LA 204 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 306,000.00
Lot 74 – L25 Blk 21-A LA 204 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 306,000.00

Lot 75 - Res'l. Lot LA 400 sqm
L14 Blk12 Main Road, Phase 1 Village East Exec. Homes II, San Isidro, Angono
Minimum Bid Price P 748,000.00

Lot 76-Res'l. Lot/Rawland LA 4,418sqm
Sitio Nagpatong, Bgy. San Juan,Bams
Minimum Bid Price P 2,650,500.00

Lot 77 - Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 790sqm, FA 248sqm L5 Blk5 2ndSt, Cavalier Village, Sta. Cruz
Minimum Bid Price P 3,173,050.00

Lot 78 - Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 580 sqm, FA 208 sqm
801 Belmont St. Brookside Hills Subd. Batong Dalig, Cainta
Minimum Bid Price P 2,091,490.00

Lot 79 - Res'l. Lot w/ Imprvmnt
LA 485 sqm, FA 357 sqm
L1 Blk3, L4 Blk8 & L3-A Clarion St., Park Place Subd., Brgy. San Isidro
Minimum Bid Price P 3,622,860.00

Res'l. Lots, Forest Hills Res'l Estates&Golf & Country Club, Brgy San Isidro
Lot 80 – L26 Blk22 Ph1 LA 402 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,085,400.00
Lot 81 – L27 Blk22 Ph1 LA 414 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,117,800.00
Lot 82 – L24 Blk22 Ph1 LA 428 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,155,600.00
Lot 83 – L23 Blk22 LA 432 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,555,200.00
Lot 84 – L22 Blk22 Ph1 LA 451 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 1,217,700.00

TAGAYTAY

Res'l. Lots, Crosswinds Subd. Iruhin
Lot 85 - L16 Blk 5 LA 737 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 3,869,250.00
Lot 86 - L17 Blk 5 LA 726 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 3,811,500.00
Lot 87 - L3 Blk 2 LA 687 sqm
Minimum Bid Price P 3,606,750.00

Lot 88 - Res'l. Lot LA 2,000sqm
Lot G AmadeoProv. Rd.Royal Pines West
Minimum Bid Price P 5,610,000.00

QUEZON CITY

Lot 89–Comm'l Lot w/ Imprvmnt, LA1,500sqm
L7 Blk K-62, EDSA, Brgy.West Kamias, Diliman District
Minimum Bid Price P 60,261,500.00

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TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

CARS

CARS

VEHICLES FOR SALE

1996 TOYOTA LITE ACE GXL
Minimum Acceptable Bid Price: P 150,300.00

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Special Assets Management Team
Tel. No. 8926810 loc. 5591 to 93 / 8309017

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CARS

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'96 GMC Suburban Blk 880T MB '90 290SE A1 480Th 810-9074

'96 MB100 A1cond P330th 0920-9047636 / 724-6922

MITSUBISHI

'04 Adventure GLS Sport 550T Diesel 671-1477 / 82

'05 ADV GLX DSL P135T D/P OR P10,568 MO · 09178458587

3 Valican, Mervilla, Pque 4BR Jp&Down 31/2TB w/den 3crgrge Call Darius / Jen 8247226 09178739397

17 L3 FB 230T 800-4771

NISSAN

02 Patrol Dsl A/T 1st Owned 24tkms Call 931-5797

2000 SENTRA GTS All Power Low Mileage Call 6604213

RUSH! 01 Mdl Nissan Frontier P600T Neg w/Carry Boy 0919-8707359 • 0919-3552515

VOLVO SL 95 MODEL 380T
Nissan Urvan 01MDL 500T
Benz MB100 96Mdl 280T
MAZDA E200 95Mdl 170T
Rush! Noel 7518598

OPEL

OPEL TIGRA '98 Model
Pls. call at 8920140 / 8151903 Look for: Miriam or Myla Mon-Fri./10am-5pm)

TOYOTA

95FX DUAL AIRCON 5K GAS P170K 0918-3382948

7Czla XL P210 09228078788

ADV 98 380T 09202283164

VOLVO

98 VOLVO S70
A/T 450T Rush Sale
0917-5383184

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2001 Strada, fully loaded, TV, 2cd changer, camper shell w AC and Japanese Seat, bull bar, others. 760T Call 0920-9003033

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TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

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FOR SALE
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1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/out taking car 6567685

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Sale/Rental/Servce 8014494

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H. S. / College Plans
GIE 7137284 0917-7939632

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PLYWOOD marine 5mm P320-
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GOLDEN RET. PUPS 4225231

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1991-2004

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4th/F JGC Phil. Annex bldg.
(Back of Honda Cars)
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GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

PCCI

334th PCCI & 335th PCCI
ALL-BREEDS
DOGSHOWS
RIVERBANK CENTER
MARIKINA CITY
FEBRUARY 19 & 20, 2005
UNDER INT'L JUDGES
Mr. Jon-IL RYU
(Korea)
Mr. BO-HYEON JANG
(Korea)
(1st TIMERS IN THE PHILS.)
STRICTLY NO ADDENDUM
Waiting for Handlers During PCCI Shows Is No Longer Allowed
SHOW SCHEDULE
SUNDAY,
February 20, 2005
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Non-Sporting & Herding Grp
12:30 PM - 5:00 PM
Registration & Judging of Working Group

CORPORATE SPONSORS:
ADVANCE
SCIENCE DIET

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

FREE ANTI DIABETIC 8671937

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late AVELINA VDA. DE ESPEJO of Muntinlupa City, who died on Feb. 2, 1997 has been the subject of an extrajudicial settlement on Jan. 31, 2005, as evidenced in the document executed and acknowledged before Notary Public Modesto M. Alejandro Jr., Mandaluyong City, Doc. No. 131, Page No. 28, Book No. VIII, Series of 2005
(PDI-Feb 20, 27 & March 6, 2005)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the following Stock Certificates of TECHNOTEST, INC., covering the number of shares inscribed theron, have been declared lost by their respective registered owners as follows: EUSTAQUIO T.C. ACERO: Stock Certificate No. 7 for 500 shares: SC#52 for 200 shares: SC# 84 for 1808 shares; SC# 161 for 1992 shares; SC# 390 for 1127 shares; SC# 495 for 50 shares; EVANGELINE A. ACERO: SC# 305 for 40 shares; SC# 392 for 10 shares; SC# 497 for 50 shares; SC# 526 for 997 shares; EMMANUEL A. ACERO: SC# 214 for 54 shares; SC# 313 for 113 shares; SC# 391 for 40 shares; SC# 496 for 50 shares; and RIZAL G. RAMOS: SC# 50 for 150 shares; SC# 58 for 60 shares; SC# 119 for 403 shares; SC# 150 for 40 shares; SC# 195 for 760 shares; SC# 297 for 50 shares; SC# 357 for 425 shares; SC# 444 for 453 shares; and SC# 510 for 50 shares. If no properly validated claim/s is/are received, within the period prescribed by law, replacement certificates will be issued to their respective registered owners as reflected in the books of the corporation.
(PDI-Feb. 6, 13 & 20, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

• GUD BIZNIZ •
INSTANT RUBBERSTAMP MACHINE IN W/FREE KEY DUPLICATOR USED BY MR. QUICKIE 8512827,8542183

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

AGENTS/DISTRIBUTORS and Exclusive Marketing Partners
for MMla & Calabarzon areas to market various Skin Care Lines from US, France, UAE Lifetime Royalty Systems & Ownership Opportunity Call 751-0491 0917-8536992 or email rolfe multi l@yahoo.com

EARN FROM HOME 8370008

Earn ur 1st million! attend mtng Sat 7PM Feb 26 back Welcome Rotonda Ludy 09205430191

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WE ARE A MULTINATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES COMPANY that makes working a whole lot of fun without sacrificing personal career growth and development. If you want your life to reach its full potential, you might want a career that:

- rewards talent and skills
- grants above average compensation
- gives opportunities for travelling locally and abroad
- provides expert training
- has top of the line employee benefits

We are currently expanding and looking for applicants for the following positions.

SALES MANAGEMENT TRAINEES
PROMOTIONS MANAGEMENT TRAINEES
CALL CENTER MANAGEMENT TRAINEES
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We are also looking for:

HUMAN RESOURCES SUPERVISOR

- At least three years experience in HR related functions in a multi-national company

Start the year right by applying with us. Bring your updated resumé with recent 2x2 picture to **Human Resource Department**, 9/F Tower 2, The Enterprise Center, 6766 Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. Tel. No.: (02) 755-1540 FAX: 755-1518 E-mail: recruitment@berkley.com.ph

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE
We do our screening every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 2 p.m.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
PHILIPPINE ATMOSPHERIC, GEOPHYSICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (PAGASA)
SCIENCE GARDEN COMPLEX, AGHAM ROAD, DILIMAN QUEZON CITY
Postal Address: P.O. Box 3278 Manila • Telephone No. (632) 434-2661

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PAGASA is inviting interested parties to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids using TWO ENVELOPE SYSTEM to be opened publicly at the Amihan Conference Room, 2/FL, PAGASA Central Office Building, Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City as follows:

		Approved Budget	Pre-Bid Conference	Bidding Date
Lot 1	Supply of Janitorial Services (39 Janitors)	2,692,002.88	Mar. 15, 2005	Mar. 30, 2005
Lot 2	Supply of Security Services (34 S. Guards)	3,859,360.00	Mar. 15, 2005	Mar. 30, 2005
Lot 3	Computer Hardware	1,381,800.00	Mar. 15, 2005	Mar. 30, 2005
Lot 4	Fire Fighting Installation (materials only)	428,102.40	Mar. 15, 2005	Mar. 30, 2005
Lot 5	High Voltage Power Supply-Model RR5-600P/M381	600,000.00	Mar. 15, 2005	Mar. 30, 2005
Lot 6	Rental of Photocopying Machine (25 Units)	450,000.00	Mar. 15, 2005	Mar. 30, 2005
Lot 7	Road Asphalt Repair-Agham Rd., Dil., Q.C.	247,986.82	Mar. 17, 2005	Mar. 31, 2005
Lot 8	Repair/Rehab. Synoptic Stn.-Tuguegarao, Cagayan	80,181.60	Mar. 17, 2005	Mar. 31, 2005
Lot 9	Repair/Rehab. Synoptic Stn. & Observer's Quarter - Aparri, Cagayan	147,210.32	Mar. 17, 2005	Mar. 31, 2005
Lot 10	Repair/Rehab. Radar Stn. – Aparri, Cagayan	186,323.69	Mar. 17, 2005	Mar. 31, 2005
Lot 11	Repair/Rehab Synoptic Stn., Power House & Storage Quarter – Maasin S. Leyte	106,790.27	Mar. 17, 2005	Mar. 31, 2005
Lot 12	Partial Rehab. Wx. Stn. – Calapan, Oriental Min.	316,979.26	Mar. 17, 2005	Mar. 31, 2005
Lot 13	Repair/Rehab. Synoptic Stn. – Iba, Zambales	146,044.00	Mar. 17, 2005	Mar. 31, 2005
Lot 14	Repair/Rehab. Synoptic Stn. – Tacloban, Leyte	153,636.36	Mar. 17, 2005	Mar. 31, 2005

Interested parties may avail Bid Requirements and Bidding Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee equivalent to 0.2% of approved budget per lot in no case lower than P500.00 and not more than P1,000.00 to the PAGASA Cashier's starting March 7 to 14, 2005 to be issued by the BAC Secretariat at the General Services Section, 3/FL, PAGASA Central Office Building, Agham Road Diliman, Quezon City, upon presentation of this advertisement clipping, together with the Company's TIN.

All inquiries, concerning the invitation to bid should be addressed to the Chairman, PAGASA-BAC.

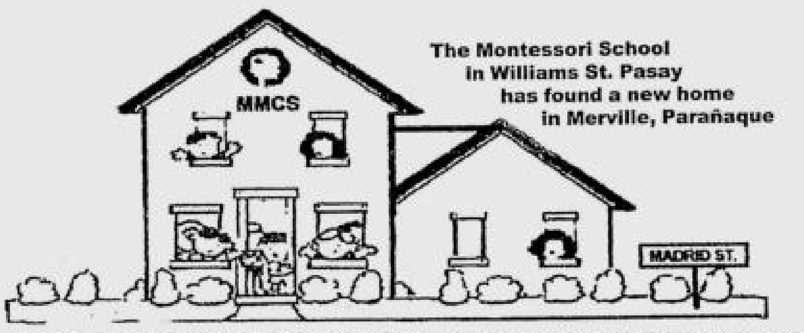
The PAGASA reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason of its own, waive any formality therein when necessary, and to accept the complying offer considered most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) PRISCO D. NILO
Chairman, PAGASA-BAC

(PDI – February 20 & 27, 2005)

MARIA MONTESSORI CHILDREN'S SCHOOL

Madrid Street, Merville Subdivision, Parañaque City
Tel. Numbers: 7767304; 7767308



The Montessori School in Williams St. Pasay has found a new home in Merville, Parañaque

NOW PROCESSING APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2005 - 2006
SLOTS OPEN FOR 2 1/2 TO 4 YEAR OLD CHILDREN ONLY
NO SLOTS OPEN FOR ELEMENTARY FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2005 - 2006

Maria Montessori Children's School is a non-stock, non-profit foundation, first operated as a Cooperative School in 1971, then as a foundation in 1990. MMCS strives to remain true to the principles of Montessori education in its programs and in accordance with Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) standards

Classes are organized as progressive levels in which children of mixed ages interact with each other and their teacher. This setting allows for children of varying abilities and personalities to learn how to get along with one another. Each child is respected as an important member of the community; each child learns the importance of interdependence.

OUR PROGRAMS:

Casa (primary level) 3 to 6 years old
Regular Sessions: 8:00 to 11:00 Monday to Friday

One becomes a well-balanced adult only if one has fully been a child.

– Maria Montessori

ZURBANO PUBLISHING AND PRINTING CORP.
Is in need of:
GRAPHIC / LAYOUT ARTIST

- Work involves layouting, design, conceptualization, photo / image enhancement.
- Experience in the use of design and layout software a must.
- Fine Arts graduate
- Bring Bio-data with 2x2 photo

Look for Rachel or Richard at
2195 Primo Rivera St., Brgy. La Paz, Makati City
Tel.: 898-3417 • 898-3374

**** OUR COMPANY IS IN NEED OF A HIGH CALIBER CANDIDATES WHO CAN FILL UP THIS POSITION ****

SUPERVISOR - Business Materials planning

Qualifications:
- Female/less than 30 years old
- A Master of Business Administration
- Preferably can speak Chinese fluently/both verbal & writing
- At least 2-5 years experience in production management
- Must have experience in Material Planning & Procurement specifically Computer Manufacturing
- Must have good communication skills
- Familiar with market information and Computer Software Application

Requirements
- ■ Updated resumé with recent photo, Diploma/Transcript of Records, Birth Certificate, Employment Certificate

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY SEND THEIR RESUME TO

MR. ROMMEL AQUINO
Division Chief, Recruitment Division
SBMA Labor Center
Rm. 138, Building 255, Harryman Road
Subic Bay Freeport Zone 2222

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RIGHTS FOR SALE

RIGHT 4 SALE CARTIMAR 09155360132, 09175386430

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Computer Shop 09223500842 Along CM Recto Near FEU

FOR SALE (Owner Leaving) MONTEREY NEIGHBORHOOD MEATSHOP (Franchise) Uptown Taytay, Rizal Nr the New Public Market P1.9M Neg Call 0920-9072990

TAXI FOR SALE
97hilander w/t mega line, 10 pass exp sep. 07 RUSH SALE (0921)7364523

DEALERSHIP

Grape Seed XTRAK 09209233649

Red (Energy) & Green (Diet) Iced Tea 09209233640

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MALE

DRIVER 55 Maginoo St. QC

Exp. WELDERS, apply personally BARRON ENGINEERING SUPPLIES 517 Protacio St. Pasay City Tel# 888-9088 / 884-8338

SECURITY OFFICERS
W/driving experience at least 5'7" 35 yrs & below-contact Tel. # 894-7979

WANTED Rush Truck Drivers High Sal. w/exp prof lic.no.2,3,8 Call 873-5271-872-0265-

FEMALE

Cook Yaya H'girl M'wife H-salary ForeignFamily. 8510250

PHARMACIST (Lic) 8519792

SECRETARY
PLEASING PERSONALITY FEMALE 20-25 YRS OLD SINGLE, COMPUTER LITERATE AMBITIOUS CALL 8214992 2PM - 5PM

THERAPIST 4 SPA w/ or w/o experience LADIES 7265117

MALE/FEMALE

ACCOUNTANT 2-3 YRS EXP. Age 26-35; Send resume standardphilippines @yahoo.com; Tel 721-3738

ACCT EXEC MKTG ASST 4 EVENTS CO 6876960 ROCH

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Expd. VIDEO EDITORS Knowledgeable in Sony Vegas 5.0 Send Resume to: edwardvidal@yahoo.com

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Leaflet Giver 916-1390

Licensed/underboard Nurse Pharmacist Medtech T 9121235

Messenger 18-28 Age Pasig / Sn Juan, Marketing Staff 687-6960 to 62 Sharon

OFC MKTG MGT STAFF w/ or w/o exp 995-8582 Lk 4 Faye

OFCSTAFF 09192366323

Sales Staff apply Mon Feb 21 8AM-5PM 409 Mayon QC

Sr Stylists Facial Therapists Masseuse Manicurists Salary/ Allowance/Profit Sharing Alabang Salon 9581981/09175389719

URGENT!
Escuela de Sto. Rosario is now in need of B.E.ED Teacher, 22-28 yrs. old, M/F, pref. Pasig, Marikina or Mandaluyong Res. Pref a Board Passer For more details please visit us at #07 DSAA Rosario, Pasig City 6279941 •6412795

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Heavy Equipment Serviceman with experience on Hydraulic System Machinery specially on Backhoe Call 525-8005 / 525-6011

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Office Staff Sales Exec Artist
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We manage for best value.

PUBLIC AUCTION

FEBRUARY 24, 2005 • THURSDAY • 2:00 PM • QUEEN JENNIFER HOTEL & RESTAURANT, Talavera Commercial Complex, Cauayan City, Isabela

ALICIA

LOT 1 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 3,605 sqm.
Lot 13-C Poblacion
Min. Bid Price : 715,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 716 sqm. F.A: 165 sqm.
Lot 6-A & 6-B, Nat'l Rd., Victoria
Min. Bid Price : 1,626,000.00

LOT 3 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,014 sqm. F.A: 102 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 3, Rizal
Min. Bid Price : 171,000.00

LOT 4 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 112 sqm. F.A: 200 sqm.
Lot 14-A, Culnocan
Min. Bid Price : 1,239,000.00

AURORA

LOT 5 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 500 sqm. F.A: 105 sqm.
Lot 2645-B, #115, Tanza St., San Juan Dist.
Min. Bid Price : 312,000.00

LOT 6 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 807 sqm.
Lot 1618-A-2-B-3, Corner Provincial Road And Cacal St., Bagong Linis
Min. Bid Price : 705,000.00

LOT 7 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 909 sqm. F.A: 496 sqm.
Lot 1618-A-2-G-1-C & Lot 1618-A-2-G-1-A Cacal St., Bagong Linis
Min. Bid Price : 875,000.00

LOT 8 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 315 sqm.
Lot 4, Cor. Provincial Road And Cacal Sts., Bagon Linis,Sta. Rita
Min. Bid Price : 479,000.00

LOT 9 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 138 sqm.
Lot 2989-A Pasuquin St., San Pedro/San Pablo
Min. Bid Price : 166,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,103 sqm. F.A: 44 sqm.
Lot 1-A Brgy. San Ramon
Min. Bid Price : 554,000.00

BURGOS

LOT 11 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,200 sqm. F.A: 99 sqm.
Lots 3-B-4, 3-B-5 & 3-5-B-6 Provincial Road, Masigun East
Min. Bid Price : 726,000.00

LOT 12 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 347 sqm. F.A: 207 sqm.
Lot 20234-C, Caliguian
Min. Bid Price : 698,000.00

CABAGAN

LOT 13 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.; 539 sqm. F.A: 252 sqm.
Lot 2430 Cubag
Min. Bid Price : 346,000.00

LOT 14 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A : 1,100 sqm.
Lot 2219-A Cubag
Min. Bid Price : 66,000.00

LOT 15 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,203 sqm.
Lot 2219-B Cubag
Min. Bid Price : 80,000.00

LOT 16 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 137 sqm. F.A: 123 sqm.
Lot 7-B-2,Municipl Rd., Poblen.
Min. Bid Price : 508,000.00

LOT 17 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 550 sqm. F.A: 109 sqm.
Lot 1406-D & Lot 1406-E Barrio Of Luquilu
Min. Bid Price : 405,000.00

CABATUAN

LOT 18 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 371 sqm. F.A: 74 sqm.
Lot 1-B-10, Acob St., Del Pilar
Min. Bid Price : 334,000.00

LOT 19 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,159 sqm.
Lot 2152-N-1-B, Along Provincial Road, Magdalena
Min. Bid Price : 1,416,000.00

LOT 20 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 767 sqm.
Lot 2208-B, Centro
Min. Bid Price : 436,000.00

LOT 21 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 540 sqm.
Lot 2204-B Along Prv'L Rd., Purok 1, Saranay
Min. Bid Price : 513,000.00

LOT 22 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,363 sqm. F.A: 51 sqm.
Lot 2098-E-4-A & 2098-E-4-B Barrio Of Paraiso
Min. Bid Price : 616,000.00

CAUAYAN

LOT 23 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,629 sqm.
Lot B-5-B-1-C Cabaruan
Min. Bid Price : 285,000.00

Centro (Now San Fermin)

LOT 24 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 453 sqm. F.A: 60 sqm.
Lot E-3-B & 3-G-1
Min. Bid Price : 3,417,000.00

LOT 25 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 514 sqm.
Lot 3-G-3 & 3-G-4
Min. Bid Price : 2,056,000.00

LOT 26 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 627 sqm. F.A: 30 sqm.
Lot 3-F & 3-G-2
Min. Bid Price : 4,128,000.00

LOT 27 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,350 sqm.
Lot E,District I
Min. Bid Price : 119,000.00

LOT 28 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 649 sqm. F.A: 86 sqm.
Lot 1-A-21-L, F. Dalupang St., Extension, District I
Min. Bid Price : 1,107,000.00

LOT 29 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 18,254 sqm.
Lot 159, Brgy. Maligaya
Min. Bid Price : 52,000.00

LOT 30 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 300 sqm. F.A: 155 sqm.
Lot 4-A Along Nat'L Hihgway, Minante
Min. Bid Price : 1,313,000.00

LOT 31 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 672 sqm.
Lot C-5 Along National Hi-Way, Brgy. Nungnungan
Min. Bid Price : 320,000.00

LOT 32 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 513 sqm.
Lot 4, Provincial Rd., Poblacion
Min. Bid Price : 1,732,000.00

LOT 33 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 460 sqm. F.A: 133 sqm.
Lot 20 Prenza(Now San Fermin)
Min. Bid Price : 717,000.00

LOT 34 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 500 sqm.
Lot 39-E Barrio Rd., Prenza
Min. Bid Price : 298,000.00

LOT 35 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 500 sqm.
Lot B-5-C Nat'L Rd.Prenza
Min. Bid Price : 1,425,000.00

LOT 36 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 500 sqm.
Lot B-5-D Nat'L Rd. Prenza
Min. Bid Price : 1,663,000.00

LOT 37 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 2,000 sqm.
Lot B-5-E & Lot B-5-F-3-S-5 Nat'L Rd. Prenza
Min. Bid Price : 3,840,000.00

LOT 38 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,497 sqm.
Lots 3,1,& 5, Nat'l Rd., Prenza
Min. Bid Price : 2,246,000.00

LOT 39 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 395 sqm.
Lot 1-E Prenza
Min. Bid Price : 119,000.00

LOT 40 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 42,769 sqm.
Lot A. San Antonio (Formerly Maog-Oguing)
Min. Bid Price : 909,000.00

LOT 41 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 9,674 sqm.
Lot D-9-A, San Fermin
Min. Bid Price : 2,835,000.00

LOT 42 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 382 sqm.
Lot 19, Sillawit
Min. Bid Price : 87,000.00

LOT 43 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 484 sqm.
Lot B-2-D, Tagaran
Min. Bid Price : 51,000.00

LOT 44 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 391 sqm.
Lot B-2-G, Tagaran
Min. Bid Price : 42,000.00

LOT 45 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 391 sqm.
Lot B-2-H, Tagaran
Min. Bid Price : 42,000.00

LOT 46 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,645 sqm. F.A: 28 sqm.
Lot 134, Turayong
Min. Bid Price : 59,000.00

CORDON

LOT 47 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 3,713 sqm. F.A: 170 sqm.
Lot 4803-A, 8167-C-6-B-7 & 8167-C-6-B-6, Along National Highway, Capirpirwan
Min. Bid Price : 1,860,000.00

LOT 48 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,346 sqm. F.A: 102 sqm.
Lot Nos. 2-A & Lot 1, Corner Tumanot & Brgy.Rd.,Turod Sur
Min. Bid Price : 898,000.00

LOT 49 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 198 sqm. F.A: 64 sqm.
Lot A, Municipal Rd.,Turod Sur
Min. Bid Price : 426,000.00

LOT 50 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 300 sqm.
Lot 10998-B-1, Tanggal
Min. Bid Price : 114,000.00

DELFIN ALBANO

LOT 51 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 4,998 sqm.
Lot2-H-6-A, Prov'L Rd.,Brgy. Rd., Rizal
Min. Bid Price : 126,000.00

LOT 52 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 779 sqm.
Lot 2-H-6-D-3, Ragan Sur
Min. Bid Price : 67,000.00

LOT 53 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 2,142 sqm. F.A: 129 sqm.
Lot 16, Prov'L Rd., Galutera St., San Antonio
Min. Bid Price : 787,000.00

LOT 54 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 575 sqm. F.A: 57 sqm.
Lot B, Prov'L Rd., Ragan Sur
Min. Bid Price : 390,000.00

LOT 55 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 3,757 sqm. F.A: 86 sqm.
Lot 1804-A & 1804-B Ragan Sur, Barrio Rd.
Min. Bid Price : 717,000.00

ECHAGUE

LOT 56 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 744 sqm. F.A: 72 sqm.
Lot 161, Poblacion (Formerly Taggapan)
Min. Bid Price : 443,000.00

LOT 57 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 30,000 sqm.
Lot 4851-B, Arabiat
Min. Bid Price : 183,000.00

E.M. PINZON SUBD. SAN FABIAN

LOT 58 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 300 sqm. Lot 13
Min. Bid Price : 255,000.00

LOT 59 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 300 sqm. Lot 15
Min. Bid Price : 255,000.00

LOT 60 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 300 sqm. Lot 19
Min. Bid Price : 255,000.00

LOT 61 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 300 sqm. Lot 21
Min. Bid Price : 255,000.00

LOT 62 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 396 sqm. Lot 23
Min. Bid Price : 438,000.00

GAMU

LOT 63 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 8,625 sqm. F.A: 88 sqm.
Lot 60, N, E, S & W: Barrio Rd., Brgy. Mabini
Min. Bid Price : 1,041,000.00

LOT 64 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 450 sqm.
Lot 17 Along Nat'L Road, Upi
Min. Bid Price : 68,000.00

LOT 65 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 564 sqm.
Lot 4238-A-3-D Along Upi-Roxas Road Mabini
Min. Bid Price : 45,000.00

LOT 66 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 2,429 sqm. F.A: 168 sqm.
Lot 1510 Corner Libertad And Las Perlas Sts., District I
Min. Bid Price : 1,295,000.00

ILAGAN

LOT 67 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,000 sqm.
Lot 13858-A, Alibagu
Min. Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT 68 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,000 sqm.
Lot 13858-F, Alibagu
Min. Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT 69 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,200 sqm.
Lot 1-B-2-D-4 & Lot 1-B-2-D-3 Alibagu
Min. Bid Price : 1,392,000.00

LOT 70 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 488 sqm.
Lot 1 Blk 15 Capitol Hill, Calamagui
Min. Bid Price : 59,000.00

LOT 71 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 447 sqm.
Lot No.7 Calamagui 1St
Min. Bid Price : 75,000.00

LOT 72 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 2,490 sqm.
Lot 2-A Calamagui 2Nd
Min. Bid Price : 507,000.00

LOT 73 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 553 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 15 Capitol Hill, Calamagui
Min. Bid Price : 31,000.00

LOT 74 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 362 sqm. F.A: 85 sqm.
Lot 13069 Along Nat'L Road Marana 1St
Min. Bid Price : 212,000.00

JONES

LOT 75 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 747 sqm. F.A: 92 sqm.
Lot 791-A-1, Cabanuangan St., Brgy. 2
Min. Bid Price : 622,000.00

LOT 76 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 9,540 sqm.
Lot F & Lot G Fugo
Min. Bid Price : 268,000.00

MALLIG

LOT 77 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 537 sqm. F.A: 91 sqm.
Lot Nos. 72 & 71-A, Casili
Min. Bid Price : 764,000.00

LOT 78 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,916 sqm.
Lot 1031-A-1-D Nat'L Road, Centro I
Min. Bid Price : 1,006,000.00

LOT 79 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 439 sqm.
Lot21,Poblacion(Now Centro II)
Min. Bid Price : 71,000.00

LOT 80 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 469 sqm.
Lot22,Poblacion(Now Centro II)
Min. Bid Price : 76,000.00

RANG-AYAN

LOT 81 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,041 sqm.
Lot 767-J, Brgy. San Jose
Min. Bid Price : 125,000.00

LOT 82 - FISHPOND
L.A.: 2,729 sqm.
Lot 767-R-1, R-2, & R-3
Min. Bid Price : 96,000.00

LOT 83 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 10,000 sqm.
F.A: 146 sqm.
Lot 767-S, Rang-Ayan
Min. Bid Price : 262,000.00

LOT 84 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 3,173 sqm.
Lot No. 767-U-1, U-2, &U-3
Min. Bid Price : 254,000.00

LOT 85 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 2,635 sqm. F.A: 110 sqm.
Lot 771-A
Min. Bid Price : 434,000.00

LOT 86 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 750 sqm.
Lot 3728,San Jose Norte
Min. Bid Price : 141,000.00

LOT 87 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 748 sqm. F.A: 105 sqm.
Lot 3833 San Jose Norte
Min. Bid Price : 554,000.00

LOT 88 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 752 sqm.
Lot 3903, San Jose Norte
Min. Bid Price : 76,000.00

LOT 89 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 732 sqm. F.A: 105 sqm.
Lots 4108-A & Lot 4108-B Siempre Viva
Min. Bid Price : 914,000.00

LOT 90 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,094 sqm. F.A: 180 sqm.
Lot 39-M, National Road, Brgy.Victoria
Min. Bid Price : 717,000.00

NAGUILIAN

LOT 91 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 481 sqm. F.A: 97 sqm.
Lot 24 Nat'L Rd. Brgy. San Manuel
Min. Bid Price : 411,000.00

QUEZON

LOT 92 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 400 sqm. F.A: 87 sqm.
Lot 2686-A, Abut
Min. Bid Price : 215,000.00

LOT 93 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 400 sqm.
Lot 2686-C, Abut
Min. Bid Price : 70,000.00

LOT 94 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 459 sqm. F.A: 162 sqm.
Lot 8, Blk 4, Abut
Min. Bid Price : 381,000.00

LOT 95 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 9,973 sqm.
Lot 2679-B-2 Barrio Abut
Min. Bid Price : 195,000.00

LOT 96 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 465 sqm. F.A: 51 sqm.
Lot 5 Blk 13, Barrio Abut
Min. Bid Price : 243,000.00

LOT 97 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 536 sqm. F.A: 129 sqm.
Lot Nos. 8-A & 8-B Blk 13 Abut
Min. Bid Price : 74,000.00

LOT 98 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 786 sqm. F.A: 103 sqm.
Lot 2 Blk 5, National Rd. Abut
Min. Bid Price : 240,000.00

LOT 99 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 896 sqm. F.A: 213 sqm.
Lot 2 & 2-A,Block 108, Arellano
Min. Bid Price : 1,437,000.00

LOT 100 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 900 sqm. F.A: 288 sqm.
Lot 4-A & 4-B Nat'L Rd. Arellano
Min. Bid Price : 2,635,000.00

LOT 101 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 750 sqm. F.A: 95 sqm.
Lot 5-A & 5-B, S: Municipal Rd., E: Perpetual Road Row, Arellano
Min. Bid Price : 633,000.00

LOT 102 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,141 sqm. F.A: 60 sqm.
Lot 4, Blk. 4, No. 069, Sw:Road(Blk. 13), Manga
Min. Bid Price : 88,000.00

LOT 103 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 889 sqm. F.A: 323 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 71, National Road, Samonte
Min. Bid Price : 1,638,000.00

QUIRINO

LOT 104 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,794 sqm.
Lot 23-B San Juan
Min. Bid Price : 79,000.00

ROXAS

BANTUG

LOT 105 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 480 sqm. F.A: 140 sqm.
Lots 4 & 6, Blk.2, Nat'l Rd.
Min. Bid Price : 1,670,000.00

LOT 106 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 480 sqm.
Lot 6 & 7 Blk 4 Nat'L Rd.
Min. Bid Price : 1,012,000.00

LOT 107 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 480 sqm. F.A: 94 sqm.
Lots 3 & 4 Blk 7, Nat'l.Rd.
Min. Bid Price : 870,000.00

LOT 108 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 228 sqm. F.A: 195 sqm.
Lot 1 & Lot 7787-A-1 Leal St.
Min. Bid Price : 2,869,000.00

LOT 109 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 420 sqm.
Lot 7614-B-4,Nat'l Rd.
Min. Bid Price : 1,995,000.00

LOT 110 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,643 sqm. F.A: 148 sqm.
Lot 166-C, Brgy. Muñoz East
Min. Bid Price : 730,000.00

LOT 111 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 5,070 sqm.
Lo T5797-B, Sotero Nuesa
Min. Bid Price : 416,000.00

LOT 112 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 186 sqm.
Lot 7729-B-1, President Sergio Osmeña Ave., Poblacion
Min. Bid Price : 1,780,000.00

LOT 113 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 270 sqm. F.A: 175 sqm.
Lot 7839-B, Melancio Taganas St., Rizal
Min. Bid Price : 3,439,000.00

LOT 114 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 373 sqm. F.A: 192 sqm.
Lot 7876-C, Manuel Luis Quezon St., Brgy. Rizal
Min. Bid Price : 1,535,000.00

LOT 115 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 744 sqm. F.A: 248 sqm.
Lot 7855 J.P. Rizal St., Cor. Cm Recto St.,Rizal
Min. Bid Price : 1,729,000.00

LOT 116 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 270 sqm. F.A: 266 sqm.
Lot 7840-B-1, Don Mariano Marcos Ave.
Min. Bid Price : 4,334,000.00

LOT 117 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 12,768 sqm.
Lot 5723-B-3-C-3, Brgy. San Placido
Min. Bid Price : 115,000.00

LOT 118 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 5,331 sqm.
Lot 5723-B-3-A, Nat'l Rd., San Placido
Min. Bid Price : 559,000.00

LOT 119 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 737 sqm.
Lot 88 Brgy. Sumimbaan
Min. Bid Price : 63,000.00

BANTUG (FORMERLY VIRA)

LOT 120 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 480 sqm. F.A: 104 sqm.
Lot 15, Blk 2 & Lot 16, Blk 2, National Rd.
Min. Bid Price : 1,365,000.00

LOT 121 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 8, Blk. 4
Min. Bid Price : 368,000.00

LOT 122 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 10, Blk. 4
Min. Bid Price : 368,000.00

LOT 123 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 11, Blk. 4, National Road
Min. Bid Price : 684,000.00

LOT 124 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 13, Blk. 4, National Road,
Min. Bid Price : 684,000.00

LOT 125 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 480 sqm. F.A: 60 sqm.
Lots 9 & 10, Blk 7, Nat'l Rd.,
Min. Bid Price : 1,084,000.00

LOT 126 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 14 Blk 7
Min. Bid Price : 135,000.00

LOT 127 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 11
Min. Bid Price : 135,000.00

LOT 128 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 544 sqm.
Lot 90, Facoma Site
Min. Bid Price : 232,000.00

LOT 129 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 534 sqm.
Lot 91, Facoma Site
Min. Bid Price : 227,000.00

LOT 130 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 345 sqm.
Lot 93, Facoma Subd
Min. Bid Price : 148,000.00

LOT 131 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 240 sqm. F.A: 81 sqm.
Lot 535-F-1, Marcelo H. Del Pilar St., Vira
Min. Bid Price : 801,000.00

LOT 132 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 732 sqm. F.A: 122 sqm.
Lot 546-D-1, Gen. Gregorio Del Pilar St, Vira
Min. Bid Price : 837,000.00

LOT 133 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 564 sqm.
Lot 7878-A, Doña Aurora St., Brgy. Vira
Min. Bid Price : 480,000.00

LOT 134 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 985 sqm. F.A: 252 sqm.
Lots 487-A & 487-B, Provincial Road, Vira
Min. Bid Price : 2,509,000.00

LOT 135 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 302 sqm.
Lot 7714-B, Gen Antonio Luna St., Vira
Min. Bid Price : 530,000.00

LOT 136 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 623 sqm.
Lot 7784 Leal St. Bantug
Min. Bid Price : 1,169,000.00

SAN ISIDRO

LOT 137 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 513 sqm. F.A: 54 sqm.
Lot 4578-Q-2-D-3-C, Prrow, Ramos West
Min. Bid Price : 224,000.00

LOT 138 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 171 sqm.
Lot 4578-Q-2-D-3-A, Ramos West
Min. Bid Price : 41,000.00

LOT 139 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 404 sqm.
Lot 4578-Q-2-D-3-B, Prrow, Ramos West
Min. Bid Price : 78,000.00

LOT 140 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 35,511 sqm.
F.A: 347 sqm.
Lot 7877-C-2-A, National Rd., Ramos East
Min. Bid Price : 6,075,000.00

LOT 141 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 17,744 sqm.
F.A: 186 sqm.
Lot 7877-C-2-B, National Road, Ramos East
Min. Bid Price : 2,212,000.00

SAN MANUEL

LOT 142 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 2,163 sqm. F.A: 76 sqm.
Lot 4-H, Brgy. Cabaritan
Min. Bid Price : 1,350,000.00

LOT 143 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,651 sqm.
Lot No. 4-K Cabaritan
Min. Bid Price : 396,000.00

LOT 144 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 800 sqm. F.A: 160 sqm.
Lot No. 4-L Cabaritan
Min. Bid Price : 648,000.00

LOT 145 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 505 sqm. F.A: 117 sqm.
Lot 1-B-3-C-1 & Lot 1-B-3-C-2 Nat'L Rd. Dist I
Min. Bid Price : 825,000.00

LOT 146 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,994 sqm. F.A: 163 sqm.
Lots 992 & 991, National Road, Dist. 1 (Centro)
Min. Bid Price : 2,121,000.00

LOT 147 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 678 sqm. F.A: 80 sqm.
Lots 1 & 2, Blk 3, Bonifacio St., District 3
Min. Bid Price : 1,377,000.00

LOT 148 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 174 sqm.
Lot 24, Blk. 2, Rd. Lot 1, Rd. Lot 3, Dist. 3
Min. Bid Price : 74,000.00

LOT 149 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 324 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk 4, District 3
Min. Bid Price : 156,000.00

LOT 150 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 304 sqm.
Lot 13 Blk 4, District 3
Min. Bid Price : 146,000.00

LOT 151 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 334 sqm.
Lot 14 Blk 7, District 3
Min. Bid Price : 40,000.00

LOT 152 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 303 sqm.
Lot 19 Blk 7, District 3
Min. Bid Price : 146,000.00

LOT 153 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 321 sqm.
Lot 20 Blk 7, District 3
Min. Bid Price : 155,000.00

LOT 154 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,500 sqm. F.A: 229 sqm.
Lot 7232 & 7233, Barrio Eden
Min. Bid Price : 1,447,000.00

LOT 155 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 20,000 sqm.
Lot 3342-B, Brgy. Eden
Min. Bid Price : 413,000.00

LOT 156 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 20,000 sqm.
Lot 5186-B-1, Nueva Era
Min. Bid Price : 413,000.00

LOT 157 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,701 sqm. F.A: 108 sqm.
Lot 8-8, 7004 & 7005 Sandiat East
Min. Bid Price : 755,000.00

SAN MARIANO

LOT 158 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 742 sqm. F.A: 90 sqm.
Lot 190, Bugallon St., Cor. Gumpal St., Zone III
Min. Bid Price : 554,000.00

SANMATEO

LOT 159 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 3,000 sqm.
Lot 7030-Q-5-G, Poblacion
Min. Bid Price : 715,000.00

LOT 160 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 2,423 sqm.
Lot 9842-B-2-A & Lot 9842-B-2-M Provicial Rd., Poblacion I
Min. Bid Price : 1,466,000.00

LOT 161 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 30,000 sqm.
Lot 6710-D-3 Barrio Liwliwa(New Villa Cruz)
Min. Bid Price : 735,000.00

LOT 162 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 484 sqm.
Lot 9482-B-1, Daramuangan Sur
Min. Bid Price : 775,000.00

LOT 163 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 801 sqm. F.A: 297 sqm.
Lot 8423-A-17 Bonifacio St. Brgy. 4, Poblacion
Min. Bid Price : 1,058,000.00

LOT 164 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 680 sqm. F.A: 620 sqm.
Lot 9841-F-1B & Lot 9841-F-1-A Poblacion
Min. Bid Price : 4,051,000.00

LOT 165 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 541 sqm. F.A: 595 sqm.
Lot 9842-A Brgy 1,Poblacion
Min. Bid Price : 2,379,000.00

SANTIAGO

LOT 166 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,000 sqm. F.A: 109 sqm.
Lot 1646-A-1, Along National Road, Purok Paraiso, Batal
Min. Bid Price : 1,951,000.00

LOT 167 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 974 sqm. F.A: 55 sqm.
Lot 10713-L, Rrow, Batal
Min. Bid Price : 799,000.00

LOT 168 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 126 sqm. F.A: 212 sqm.
Lot 28611-B & 28611-A, City Road Corner Bonifacio St., Calao East
Min. Bid Price : 2,252,000.00

LOT 169 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 240 sqm.
Lot 21, Blk. 8, Santiago Heights Subd., Caloocan
Min. Bid Price : 102,000.00

LOT 170 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 312 sqm.
Lot 5, #25 Gaffud St., Centro East
Min. Bid Price : 1,127,000.00

LOT 171 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 318 sqm. F.A: 90 sqm.
Lot 312-D-2, Landlocked, Dubinan West
Min. Bid Price : 602,000.00

LOT 172 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 293 sqm. F.A: 88 sqm.
Lot 6-B-4, No. 31 Ancheta St. Ext., Mabini
Min. Bid Price : 905,000.00

LOT 173 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,407 sqm.
Lot 482-F-9, Mabini
Min. Bid Price : 901,000.00

LOT 174 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,113 sqm. F.A: 48 sqm.
Lot No. 482-F-3, Mabini
Min. Bid Price : 2,966,000.00

LOT 175 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,349 sqm.
Lot No. 482-F-4 Mabini
Min. Bid Price : 1,890,000.00

LOT 176 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 300 sqm.
Lot 752-E-6-A Patul
Min. Bid Price : 373,000.00

LOT 177 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 300 sqm.
Lot 752-E-6-B Patul
Min. Bid Price : 373,000.00

LOT 178 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 600 sqm.
Lot 752-E-7 Patul
Min. Bid Price : 675,000.00

LOT 179 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 400 sqm.
Lot 752-E-8 Patul
Min. Bid Price : 450,000.00

LOT 180 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 765 sqm.
Lot 4988-B-1 & B-5,Along V. Mapa And Torres Sts.,Plaridel
Min. Bid Price : 1,645,000.00

LOT 181 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 367 sqm.
Lot 4988-B-2,Along Torres, Plaridel
Min. Bid Price : 1,046,000.00

LOT 182 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 382 sqm.
Lot 4988-B-3,Along V. Mapa, Plaridel
Min. Bid Price : 1,089,000.00

LOT 183 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 259 sqm. F.A: 214 sqm.
Lot 31, Blk. 9, No. 24 Pearl, Cor. Peridot Sts., Plaridel
Min. Bid Price : 1,446,000.00

LOT 184 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,522 sqm. F.A: 120 sqm.
Lot 7311-A-2-A, Veterans St, Plaridel
Min. Bid Price : 2,029,000.00

LOT 185 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,538 sqm. F.A: 72 sqm.
Lot 20037, No. 26 Purok 2, Madamba St., Rizal
Min. Bid Price : 1,393,000.00

LOT 186 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 631 sqm. F.A: 400 sqm.
Lot 1020 & 1021, Del Pilar St., Rosario
Min. Bid Price : 2,107,000.00

LOT 187 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 893 sqm. F.A: 98 sqm.
Lot 10053-A, Gomez St., Rosario
Min. Bid Price : 1,378,000.00

LOT 188 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,747 sqm. F.A: 115 sqm.
Lot 10053-B, & 10053-C,Gomez St., Rosario
Min. Bid Price : 2,508,000.00

LOT 189 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,726 sqm.
Lot Nos. 10053-D & 10053-E, Gomez St., Rosario
Min. Bid Price : 2,296,000.00

LOT 190 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,040 sqm. F.A: 194 sqm.
Lot 1465-D-2-B, 1465-D-2-A,1465-D-1,National Road, San Andres
Min. Bid Price : 4,297,000.00

LOT 191 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 244 sqm. F.A: 90 sqm.
Lot 1201, Zamora St. St., Victory Norte
Min. Bid Price : 948,000.00

LOT 192 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 137 sqm. F.A: 42 sqm.
Lot #103, Abaya St., Victory Norte
Min. Bid Price : 459,000.00

LOT 193 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 261 sqm. F.A: 138 sqm.
Lot 755, Recto Ave., No. 16 Victory Sur
Min. Bid Price : 881,000.00

LOT 194 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 299 sqm. F.A: 192 sqm.
Lot 621 No. 21 Recto Ave., Victory Sur
Min. Bid Price : 928,000.00

LOT 195 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 206 sqm. F.A: 87 sqm.
Lot 11048-F, Gaffud St., Villasis
Min. Bid Price : 1,463,000.00

STO. TOMAS

LOT 196 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 646 sqm.
Lot 17-D, Brgy. Rd., Bubug
Min. Bid Price : 49,000.00

LOT 197 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 453 sqm. F.A: 391 sqm.
Lot F2-A & F-1, Brgy. Rd., Calinaoan
Min. Bid Price : 299,000.00

LOT 198 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 588 sqm. F.A: 114 sqm.
Lot O-5, Brgy. Rd., Calinagan
Min. Bid Price : 132,000.00

LOT 199 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,254 sqm.
Lot 2-D, Calangan
Min. Bid Price : 84,000.00

TUMAUINI

LOT 200 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 249 sqm.
Lot 1860-B, Pascaran, District Ii
Min. Bid Price : 107,000.00

LOT 201 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 250 sqm. F.A: 199 sqm.
Lot 1860-A, Dela Cruz St., District Ii
Min. Bid Price : 585,000.00

LOT 202 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 570 sqm.
Lot 1597-B District Iv
Min. Bid Price : 310,000.00

LOT 203 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 570 sqm. F.A: 63 sqm.
Lot 1597-A Along Angalbong St. District Iv
Min. Bid Price : 442,000.00

LOT 204 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 900 sqm.
Lot 967-A Maligaya
Min. Bid Price : 180,000.00

LOT 205 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 900 sqm.
Lots D, E, F,Maligaya
Min. Bid Price : 88,000.00

LOT 206 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 269 sqm. F.A: 90 sqm.
Lot 2578, Dist. 1, National Rd.
Min. Bid Price : 541,000.00

LOT 207 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 1,684 sqm. F.A: 420 sqm.
Lot 2614-B, National Rd.
Min. Bid Price : 861,000.00

LOT 208 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 3,002 sqm.
F.A: 457 sqm.
Lot 10393-A & 10393-B, National Rd.
Min. Bid Price : 3,535,000.00

LOT 209 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 7,802 sqm.
F.A: 160 sqm.
Lot 11434-A & 11434-B, National Rd.
Min. Bid Price : 1,743,000.00

LOT 210 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
L.A.: 230 sqm.
F.A: 72 sqm.
Lot 2260, Brgy. Rd., San Pedro
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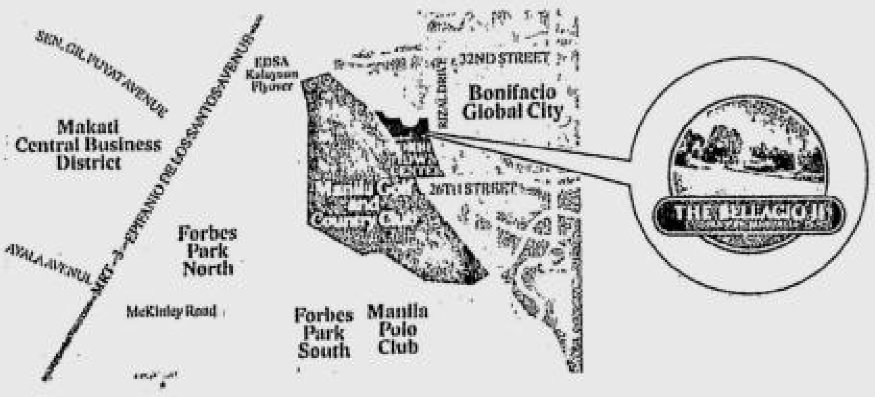
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2005 C1

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- Home
- Travel
- Weddings
- Surprises

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

THESE young women will make their society debut at the Johann Strauss Society's 2005 Opera Ball on Feb. 26.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Belles of the ball

Beyond the lavishness of the Johann Strauss Society Inc.'s annual bash is the commitment to help those in need

Story on page C7

IN THIS ISSUE

A MANOBO legend retold, part 3 /C6

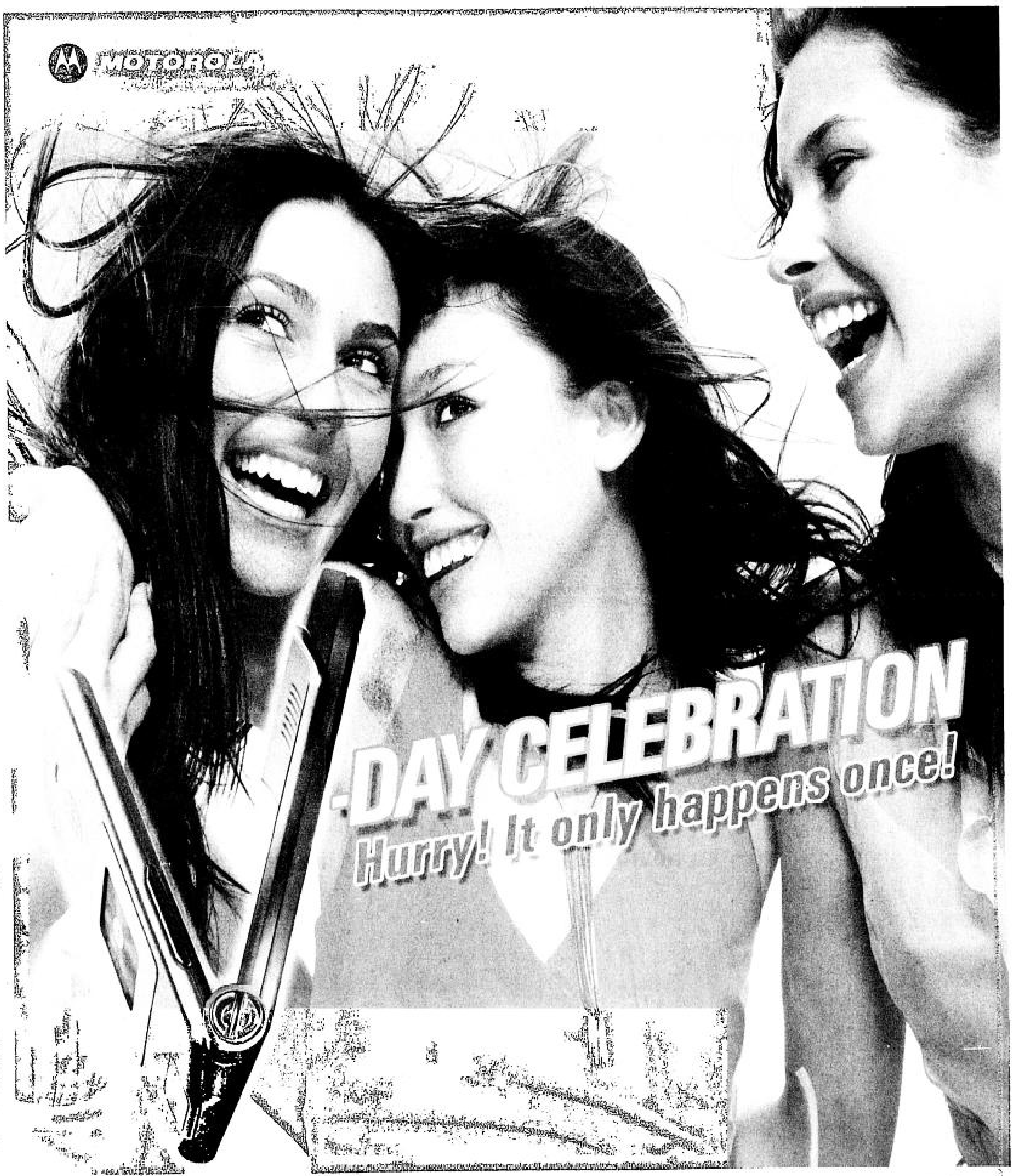
MEDITERRANEAN colors light up a home /E2

FREE-FLOWING garden /F2

WHAT makes us human? /H1

MATTEO zooms to the top /I4

SHOPPING in Egypt /J1



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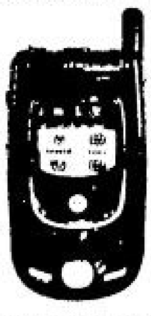

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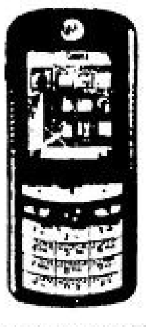

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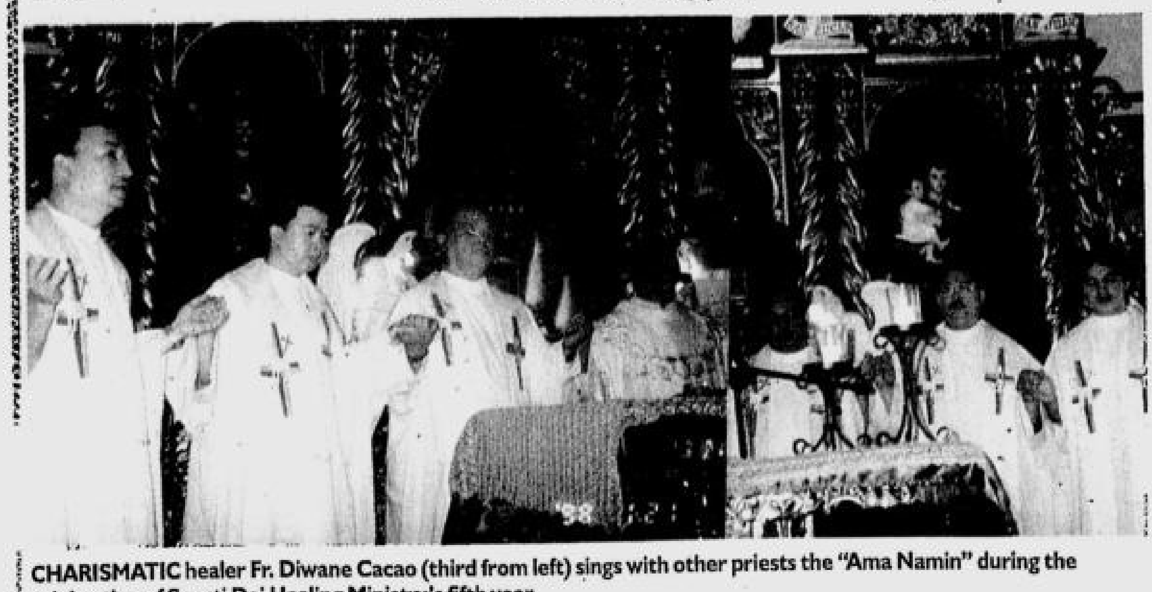
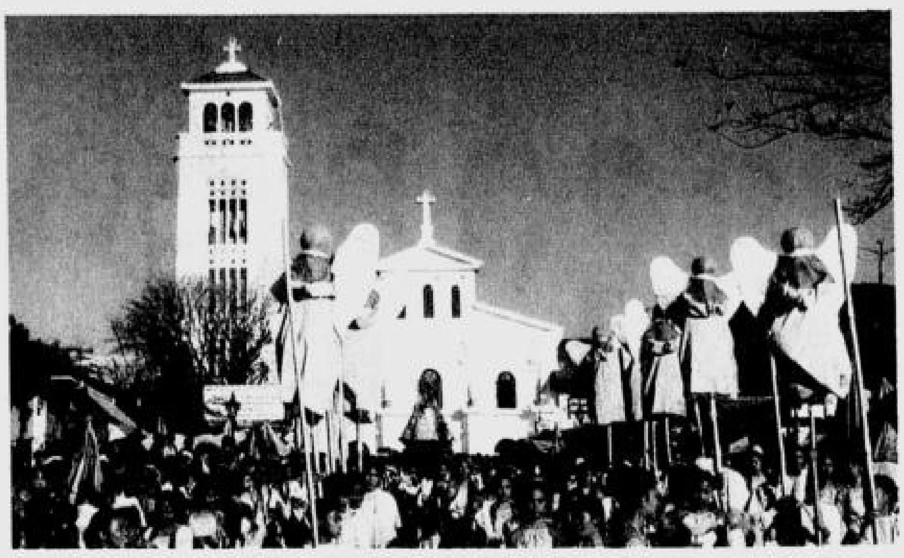


CHARISMATIC healer Fr. Diwane Cacao (third from left) sings with other priests the "Ama Namin" during the celebration of Sancti Dei Healing Ministry's fifth year.



OUR LADY of Manaoag Shrine where miracles happen

Movie tells of Manaoag miracles

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

WHEN film producer and director Ben Yalung was not allowed to make a film of the apparition of Our Lady to a Carmelite postulant in 1948 in Lipa, he returned to his original plan of doing a movie on miracles in Manaoag, Pangasinan.

A renewed Catholic, Yalung has stopped making films on crime, sex and violence.

Set to open nationwide on March 9, "Birhen ng Manaoag," Yalung's fourth religious film, interweaves three true-to-life stories. Albert Martinez plays the husband of cancer-stricken Joyce Jimenez. Jodi Santamaria is the unwed mother of Ella Guevarra, while Marco Alcaraz is a seminarian who becomes bitter and unbelieving after his mother dies.

Eddie Garcia is the parish priest of Manaoag, while Ina Feleo is the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Although the film is about miracles, the greatest miracle perhaps is Ben Yalung's transformation from a womanizing man-about-town to an elder of the Oasis of Love Catholic Community and a filmmaker who aims not to make money, but to propagate the faith.

For the Manaoag film, what is important, he says, is that people realize that miracles are possible.

History

The beautiful church of Manaoag was built at the top of a hill where Our Lady appeared to a farmer in the 17th century. Run by the Dominican Fathers who are devotees of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, the shrine is visited by thousands who want to venerate her and ask favors like healing or to give thanks.

The first miracle immortalized in a mural on a wall of the church shows a parent holding a dead child in front of Our Lady asking her to bring the child back to life. The child was revived.

My first awareness of the miracles of Our Lady of Manaoag was when I myself needed a miracle. I was in Baguio in the house of the healer Bing when the healer went into a trance. The people said: "*Ang Nanay, nandito!*" (The Mother is here!)

I was told to talk to her and ask for help. I was then emaciated from not being able to eat and drink because of achalasia (swelling of muscles of the esophagus preventing food and water from entering the stomach).

I asked Our Lady when she would make me well. She said soon. I remember it was April 1985 and I was confined at the Baguio General Hospital.

Back in my apartment in Manila, Evelyn Chua, sister of fashion designer Pando Manipon, suddenly arrived telling me it was time to go to the hospital. Her friend, Dr. Jose, made arrangements at the University of Santo Tomas Hospital for me.

Evelyn and my best friend, Raffy Guerrero, rushed me to the hospital where I was given dextrose nonstop. When Dr. William Olalia saw me, he immediately said he would operate. Today, I have 18 stitches on my left side and, thank God, the disease never came back.

Five years old

The Sancti Dei Healing Center in Lopez Village, Los Baños, Laguna celebrated the fifth year of its canonical erection with a High Mass Feb. 11 concelebrated by eight priests including Fr. Diwane Cacao, the well-known charismatic healer who built the church. Feb. 11 is the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Set on a 1,000-sq m area donated by Zenaida Umali, it also has a three-story retreat center and a big Adoration Chapel at the back. Built through donations, the Sancti Dei Center is a dream come true for Fr. Cacao who has taken on the charism of healing with permission from his bishop.

The sick come every Friday and Sunday for the 9 a.m. Healing Mass.

Those who concelebrated the Mass are Msgr. James Contreras, main celebrant; Fr. Cesar Gonzales, homilist; Fr. Luis Tolentino, Fr. Totsie Ubarco, Fr. Ireneo Oliver, Fr. Randy Rodriguez and Fr. Mar Dijan.

Professor Aresa's choir of the Immaculate Conception Parish sang Marian hymns after the Mass.

Father Cacao will have a Healing Mass at 5 p.m., March 7, at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Posadas Village, Muntinlupa City. The public is invited.

Happy Birthday

Dr. Hilario Garcia, well-known doctor in South Cotabato, celebrated recently his 80th birthday in the J&G Entertainment Studio of his son Joseph "Jong" Garcia. All his children and grandchildren were present but they missed the family matriarch, Aurora Abella Garcia, who passed away in 1992. The children are very proud of their dad, remembering his good works when serving as a family doctor in Norala, their town.

The children are Jaime; Maritess, who is married to Daniel Stehura; Ernesto; Anabelle, married to Congressman Arthur Pingoy Jr. of the second district; Jong; Debbie, married to engineer Gil Oriola; Carol, married to lawyer Angelito Maraña; John and Michelle.

Pilgrimage

Now that it is more peaceful in the Holy Land, more and more travel agencies are arranging pilgrimages there. Adam's Travel has a tour group leaving March 14 for an overnight stay in Amman. On March 15, the group goes to Petra, the fabled 2,000-year-old rose city.

Back in Amman, the group will go to Mount Nebo where Moses viewed Canaan which God did not allow him to enter. It will cross Sheik Hussein's border to Israel and in Yardenit, where Jesus was baptized by St. John the Baptist, there will be a renewal of baptismal vows.

Palm Sunday (March 20) will be spent in Jerusalem in a procession from Mount Olives to the Garden of Gethsemane, close to the Church of All Nations that marks the place where a praying Jesus' sweat turned to blood. In Mount Zion the group will visit the room of the Last Supper where the Holy Spirit also descended upon the Apostles. Nearby is the Dormition Abbey where the Blessed Virgin was assumed into Heaven.

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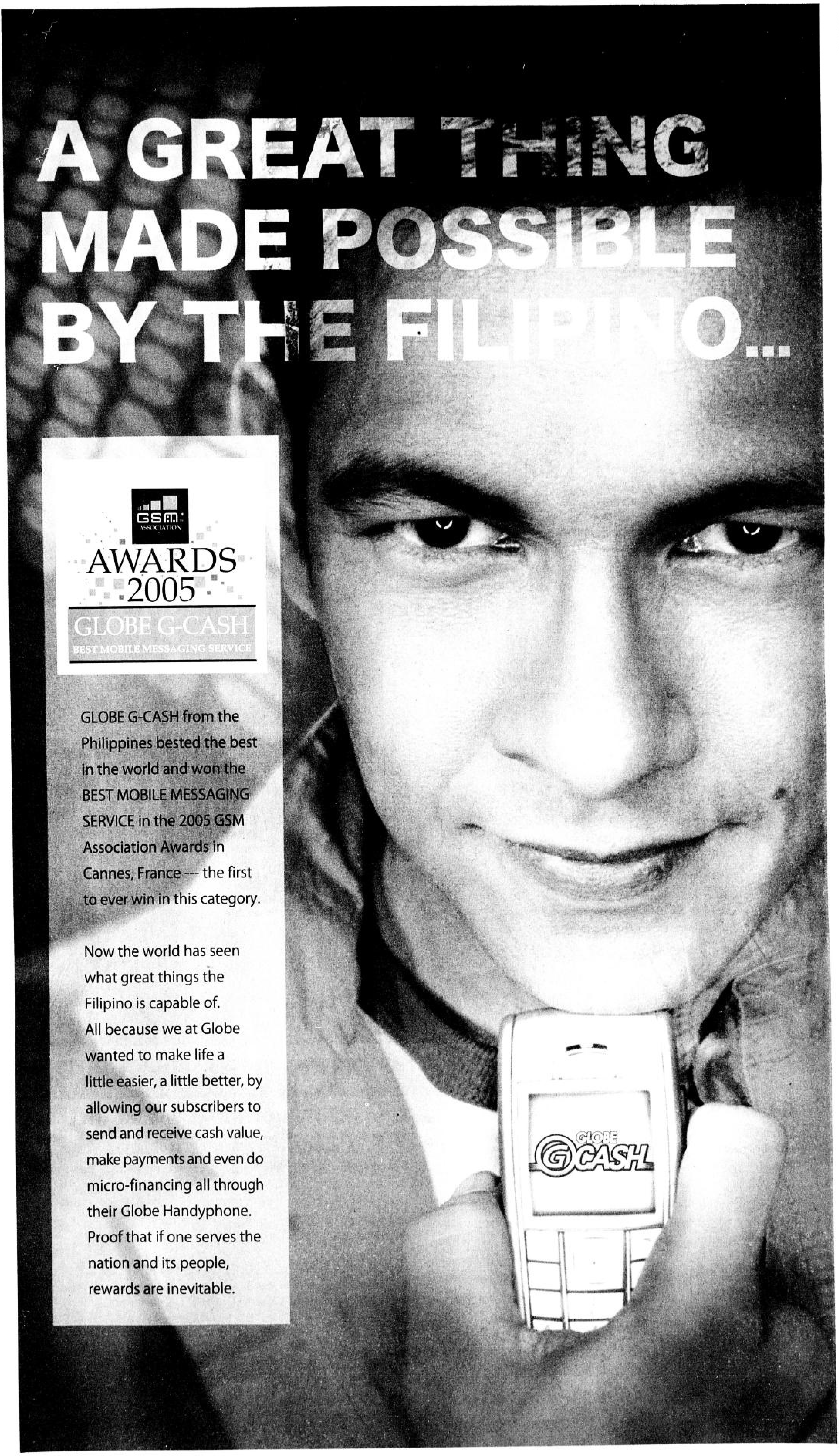

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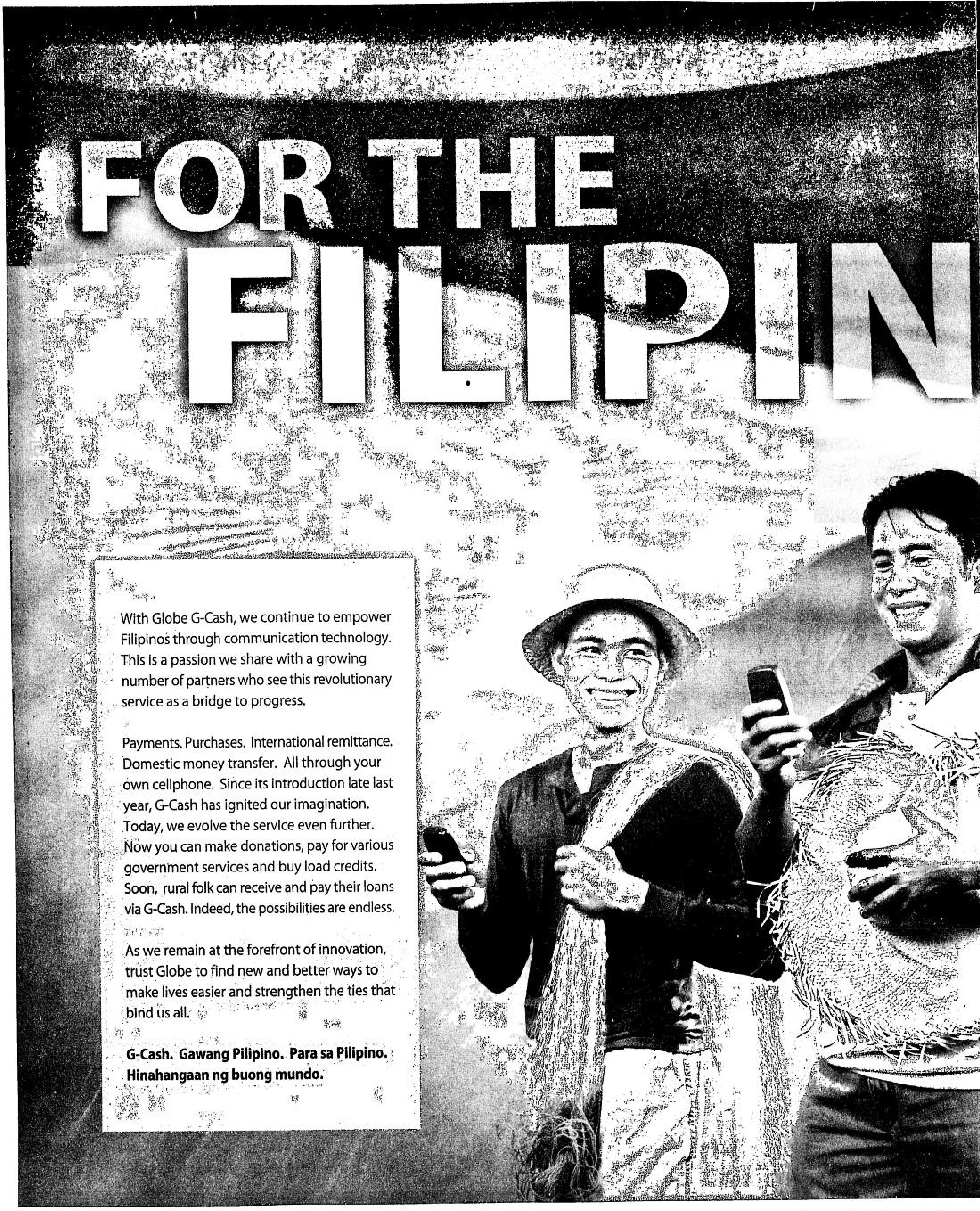

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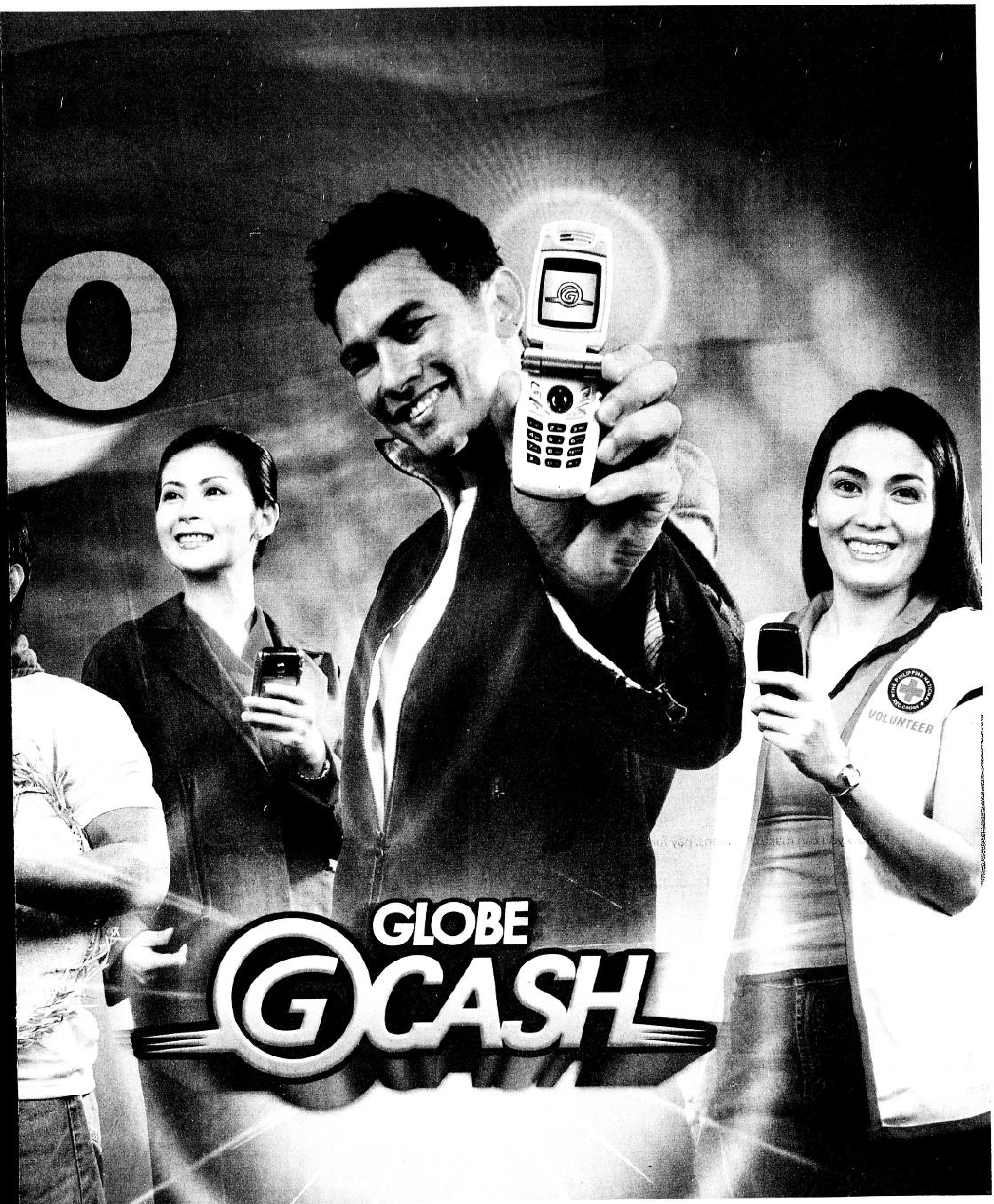

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The Manobo ascension to heaven

By Elena Maquiso and Gilda Cordero-Fernando

(Third of a series)

IV. HEAVENLY nourishment

He put the oil bottle and the betelnut chew beside Mungan. Immediately the hollow log stopped sounding. Mungan woke up and got well.

"When your brother-in-law Agyu comes," instructed the child *diwata*, "tell him that everyone must gather here in Kituved. He is already on his way. I must go now for he must not see me." Then the child vanished.

Carrying his load of provisions, Agyu became apprehensive about not hearing the beating of the log. "Something has happened to Mungan," he thought.

As he approached, however, Agyu could see that lightning kept encircling the roof of the house. A sweet smelling wind met him. He heard Mungan's voice. "Agyu, step no further. Leave the things you are carrying on the ground."

To his surprise, bees flew out of the basket where he had put the honey. The slices of venison jumped from his back pack of animal skin and instantly became a live deer; the pork slices became a squealing pig; the palm starch grew into a tree and the rattan vine began to climb the tree. He did not say a word. He could hear many voices in Mungan's hut which surprised him because he knew that Mungan lived alone.

Mungan was on the porch and Agyu could see that she was standing upright. The lower portion of her body which had been rotting was completely healed, all her limbs were smooth and shining. She invited him inside the house.

As he went upstairs he saw to his amazement many men seated on a bench floating in midair. They were wearing warrior helmets of wood, with plumes. They were all handsome. Upon Agyu's approach they covered their noses because they could not stand the odor of mortals. Even Mungan covered her nose. She put some of the sweet smelling oil on Agyu's head so that he could approach. Then Mungan instructed him to change his clothes for one among those piled in a corner. The clothes glittered and their seams shone like lightning. He was invited to join the immortals on the floating bench.

Mungan was elated to see Agyu. She told him that upon his return to Aruman he must tell all the people to come to Kituved. "The Great Diwata has shown us mercy. We must gather everyone so that we can receive the gifts that are to be given."

Agyu made the journey back to Aruman running. He felt light because of the heavenly oil. Everyone was surprised to see Agyu's features looking resplendent. He told them what taken place.

Agyu's followers packed their belongings for the trip to Kituved. There were so many of them that the head of the line was already far away while the others were still inside their houses. It took the people four days to reach Mungan's place. She welcomed them and they were surprised and pleased to see that her once leprous body was healed and clean.

"Come up even if my house is small," said Mungan. "We can all fit." And sure enough the hut seemed to expand as more and more people entered. Everyone came in except Banlak who was embarrassed and stayed at the foot of the stairs. He was put to shame to see Mungan so smooth and beautiful again.

Pemulew advised the Manobos to sit and await further instructions. Mungan got a winnowing basket and put it on the porch. Rice birds, *mayas*, with golden beaks and feet, came down from heaven. They alighted on the rim of the basket. The *mayas* began discharging *pinipi* (roasted young rice pounded flat) from their golden beaks into the basket, until it was filled to the brim.

Two green-and-red *kelusisi* birds also appeared at the window. In their beaks they carried small betelnuts striped with gold. Mungan extended her palm and the birds dropped the betelnuts in it. She got one and beckoned to Lemena.

"Open your *tubau* kerchief, Lemena, and I shall put this chew which transforms the mind." Lemena chewed the golden betelnut and distributed a small pinch to everyone, like a communion. Afterwards Mungan distributed the pinipi, newly harvested rice grains pounded flat. After eating the *pinipi* and chewing the betelnut the people's faces changed immediately. They were no longer thin nor hungry. Banlak was not given a piece of the betelnut. Instead Mungan gave him *upa*, betelnut chew refuse. She said to Lemena, "If he were not my husband I would not give him even the remains of my cud. He makes me so angry."

V. The giant adversaries

After the *mayas* with golden beaks and feet left, a rainbow that stretched up to heaven appeared over the roof of Mungan's abode. On the rainbow which is the bridge between heaven and earth, seven *diwatas* were descending to earth. They were singing and praising the Highest Diwata. They said, "Since you, Agyu, and your people, are now imbued with supernatural powers, the next step to qualify you for immortality is to face several adversaries. In seven days you are to go north. You will meet a family of enormous giants the male of whom is named Makeyvakey. Then you will fight a smaller but fiercer giant called Kumakaan. Your last adversary is an enormous hog, Makadingding, whose tusks, like daggers, can cut a stomach open and remove all the organs it contains. After Makadingding has opened your stomachs and removed your intestines the Great Diwata will replace them with golden chains. The wound will heal instantly, without scars. And you will never be hungry again. This is the final process of immortality."

On the seventh day, Agyu and his people walked northward until they reached the valley of the giants. The weather changed and the people were afraid. Makeyvakey, the male giant, with eyes burning like torches, approached from the east. The earth shook as he walked. When Mungan looked westward she saw an enormous female giant whose head reached the clouds. She was carrying a grinning toothless giant child.

All the *diwatas* were gathered on the lowest layer of heaven to watch the other *diwatas* coming from the north, south, east and west points and from underneath the earth. Agyu commanded his people to charge but the giants began catching them one by one. The male giant had a big bolo while his wife carried an uprooted tree, one end of which was on fire. The female giant carried her baby slung by a piece of tree bark on her neck. Whenever she caught a human she would put the victim at the burning end of the log and eat him. The male, on the other hand, would press his captives to the ground with his bolo and eat them too.

Seeing the people dying Agyu told Lemena that they should use all the powers granted to them by the Great Diwata. Lemena got his dagger, jumped upward and landed on the shoulder of Makeyvakey. The people shouted with admiration. He plunged his dagger into the giant's chest, inflicting a mortal wound. Makeyvakey fell. The giant was so heavy that the mountain range he fell on split in half. The *diwatas* of the bees, of the pigs and of the vegetation came down and mingled with the people to cheer the Manobos.

"Let us kill the female!" said Agyu. Lemena turned to the female giant who was looking around for new victims to eat. Those whom she caught screamed. Lemena leapt to the giant wife's shoulder and plunged his hunting knife into her neck.

Even if she could no longer stand, the female giant was still drawing people to her with her arms and eating them. She was breathing through a hole in her neck and blood was spurting out from it like a rainbow. In a short while she fell on her side with a crash. The people ran.

While the female giant was falling, Agyu snatched the toothless child hanging from her neck. He had to be quick for the child already knew how to eat people. The infant was so big it took eight people to encircle him. Lemena tied the child with rattan, which first broke apart. Agyu took the child by the river and glued him to a cliff. He said, "This should serve as a reminder that the future generations of the chosen people will meet the self same adversary again and over again.

Then Agyu, his brothers and the remaining followers went westward for the next test. They found the giant Kumakaan in Kintulusan valley. The giant was so malevolent that only someone imbued with supernatural courage would dare face him.

Pemulew turned to Agyu. "Let us make our beautiful sister Yambungan a bait for the giant. We will fence her with stones."

"That is a good idea," Lemena said. "I am sure she will not object. She herself said that the giants must be eradicated from the earth." The brothers tied their pretty sister near the giant and fenced her with big river stones. Agyu hid nearby.

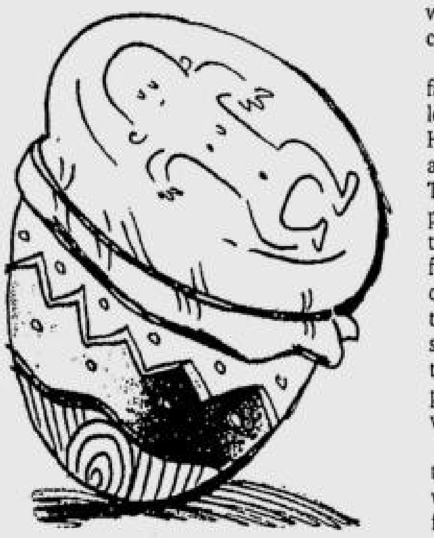
The malevolent Kumakaan reached out for the maiden. Agyu struck his arm with the bolo. The giant reached out with his left hand. Agyu cut it off likewise. With the giant now helpless Agyu wished himself turned into a *kelusisi* bird. He forced himself into the mouth of Kumakaan. Upon reaching the giant's ample chest Agyu cut out the giant's heart with his knife. Then he exited through the giant's nose, swinging his arm around with Kumakaan's heart in it. The horrible giant trembled and fell to the ground dead.

Agyu went to the big river to clean his knife with a lime fruit. Having done that, he said: "I will throw this peel into the river. Whoever picks it up, be she a girl who has just put on a *malong*, or a woman bent with age, will conceive a child by me. This will be a sign that we have become the chosen people, as promised." Then he threw the lime peel into the river where it floated away.

(The lime fruit drifted close to a group of people near a community. A young girl saw it, took it and rubbed her hair with it. This was morning. When she reached home she was already conceiving. At high noon, she delivered a baby boy. But that is another story).

After his bath the *diwatas* commanded Agyu to chew betelnut and spit his saliva in the direction of the dead people strewn about. The people got up as if from a deep sleep. When he was fully awake, Pemulew said, "Let us go back home for a while to rest before the next adversary."

(To be continued next Sunday)

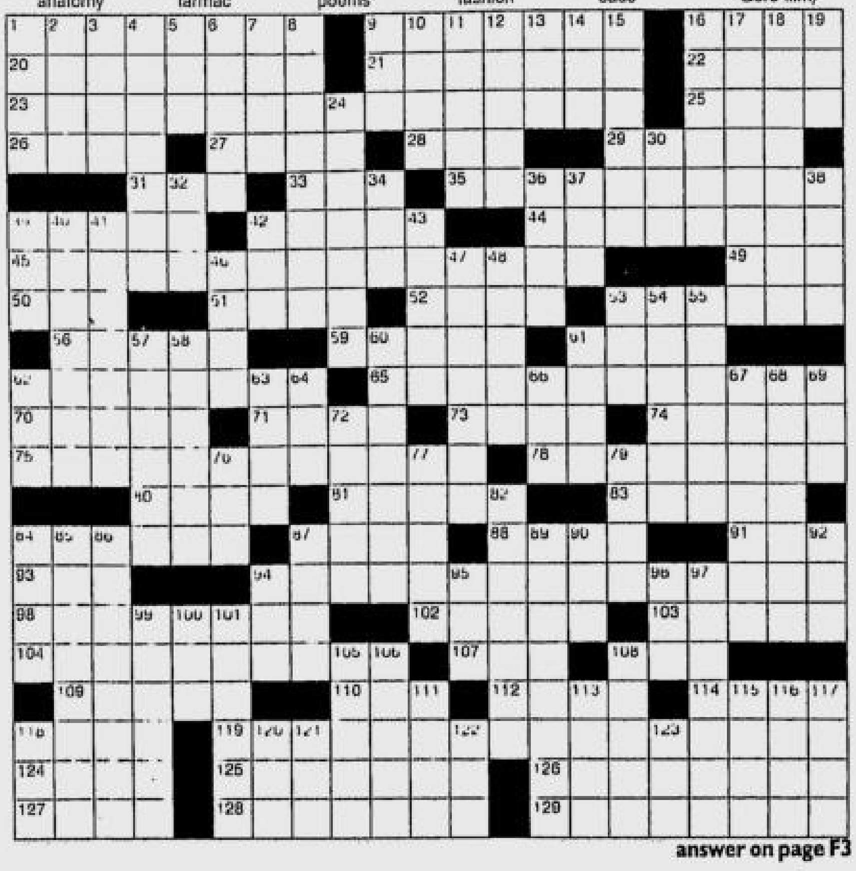


SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo START-UPS

ACROSS
1 Concealed, as a motive
9 Language Jesus spoke
16 Little terrors
20 Actor DiCaprio
21 Actress Arquette
22 — contendere (court plea)
23 Ship route joining the Atlantic and Pacific
25 Very little, as cream
26 Writer Rice
27 "Makes sense"
28 Mommies
29 Theologian Kierkegaard
31 Indian restaurant bread
33 Naughty
35 "Designing Women" co-star
39 Coups
42 Wears the crown
44 Annoy
45 When to see a grand finale
49 Craggy hill
50 Nutrition stat
51 Ducts, in anatomy
52 "Are you — out?"
53 City in central Oklahoma
56 "When You Wish — Star"
59 Ice crystals
61 Sheltered, at sea
62 Alienate
65 It's a free country
70 "— c'est moi" (Louis XIV's claim)
71 Thin
73 Circular motion
74 Viscous
75 Pioneers' settlement
78 Interred
80 Trail carrier
81 Salt's "hail!"
83 Indy great Al
84 Up-to-date
87 108-Across offerings
88 Totally absorbed
91 Bronze
93 Suffix with Japan
94 Bison
98 Uncrunchy Tex-Mex treat
102 Fusses
103 Hits the tarmac
104 Hawaiian top
107 Shar- — (wrinkly dog)
108 Saloon
109 Terra firma
110 Legendary coach Parseghian
112 Early Peruvian
114 Inter — (among others)
118 BBs, e.g.
119 Slow movement of crustal plates
124 Bank claim
125 Brief operatic solo
126 Joltin' joe?
127 Sweat outlet
128 Least far
129 Parkway pulloff

DOWN
1 Arm bone
2 Boxer Spinks
3 Ripped
4 International alliance
5 Rally yell
6 "Rich Man, Poor Man" novelist Shaw
7 Pindar poems
8 Some soon-to-be flowers
9 Jean of Dada
10 Gad about
11 Syrian bigwig
12 En — (as a group)
13 Dona — County, NM
14 Verb suffix
15 Ides of March victim
16 Going nowhere
17 Less than intense
18 Whale shark's meal
19 Bawl
24 Pekoe unit
30 Geisha's wrap
32 Cleo's killer
34 Room with a recliner
36 Truth twister
37 Endeavor
38 Eliel Saarinen's son
39 Pine relative
40 Software developer's target
41 Go with the flow of
42 Genetic matter
43 Descendant
46 Picone of fashion
47 Naval officers
48 Eccentric
53 Raised trains
54 Reveals one's true feelings
55 Kingdoms
57 Vitamin C source
58 Talk idly
60 Exceed, as a time limit
61 Yemeni port
62 Santa's helper
63 Mirth
64 Racket add-on?
66 Before, to Burns
67 Like Sherpas
68 Green gem
69 Barrett of Pink Floyd
72 Whale of —
76 B&B
77 "— something I said?"
79 Ballet skirt
82 Car lot transaction
84 Plateau kin
85 Beloved Italian encore
86 Chemical that removes suds
87 Mine, in Marseilles
89 Holy-oil sprinkler
90 "Nova" network
92 Dissenting votes
94 "Alas!" in Aachen
95 Bluecoat
96 Winter woe
97 "Johnny Angel" singer Shelley
99 Elite seat
100 Feline, to Tweety
101 Trash holder
105 Critic, often
106 Unoriginal
108 Insects' feelers
111 Cookout crashers
113 Instance
115 Menu, e.g.
116 In case it's true
117 Sitting on
118 Lofty peak
120 Rich rock
121 Long of "Boiler Room"
122 Ingest
123 "— & the Women" (Richard Gere film)



answer on page F3

Music, dancing, contests for Panagbenga

SM CITY Baguio celebrates the Panagbenga Festival this February with music, dancing, contests and performances by some of the country's most popular artists.

Also known as the Baguio Flower Festival, *panagbenga*, a *kankanaey* term meaning "a season of blooming," pays tribute to the beautiful flowers the city is famous for. It also celebrates Baguio's recovery after the devastating earthquake in 1990.

Two of the festival's highlights—the Street Dancing and Float Parade—will start at SM City Baguio. The street dancing competition will start at 2 p.m. on Feb. 26, passing through Session Road to the Athletic Bowl.

In the evening, singer/songwriter Ogie Alcasid will serenade shoppers at SM City Baguio while 96.7 K-Lite will feature some of Manila's hottest bands and talents in the K-Lite in Bloom Street Party sponsored by Globe Handyphone and San Miguel Beer.

The opening ceremony of Flowers on the Go, a parade of floats, on Feb. 27 will begin at SM City Baguio's Central Park.

From Feb. 21, the mall is holding several activities as part of the Panagbenga festivities.

The Diskubre Pet Shop will showcase Pets in Bloom at the Outdoor Wall Shop Plaza, while top Manila and local hairstylists will compete in the Search for the Top Hair and Makeup Artist Cordillera 2005 on Feb. 21 at the Atrium of SM City Baguio.

Acoustic artist Paolo Santos (Feb. 22) and jazz singer Lynn Sherman with Dice and K9 (Feb. 24) will perform at SM City Baguio's Entertainment Plaza.

Jimmy Bondoc, with Rebekkah, will perform at the mall on March 1. On March 26, young heartthrobs Divo Bayer, Josh Santana, Michael Cruz and Johann Escanan will be performing at SM City Baguio's Entertainment Plaza.

The Atrium of SM City Baguio presents the Golden Maya Dance Festival March 2-3.

Capping the Panagbenga festivities every evening Feb. 26-March 6 is a fireworks display.

PERFORMER wears buri headdress accessorized with sunflowers.

PANAGBENGA street dancers in their ethnic-inspired costumes

BASKET-SHAPED float in the Flower Power parade

IZA Encarnacion

ERICA Herrera

MAIKEE Farrales

JOVIC Cadungog

JAM Mangio

INA Eusebio

AIZ Briñas

CHRISTINE Hermoso

MARREN Dimaculangan

JAMIE Castillo

Belles of the ball

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

ROSA Rosal, the tireless governor of Philippine National Red Cross. PNRC is this year's opera ball beneficiary.

THE COMMITTEE members and organizers of 2005 Opera Ball: (front row, from left) Charisse Chuidian, Fortune Ledesma, Mellie Ablaza, Ben Farrales, Mabel Abaño, Alice Guerrero; (back row) Baby de Jesus, Donna Lampano, Karen Macasaet, Berna Lomotan, Chit Gohu and Nini Layug

BETOY JOHNSON

TEN young women. One worthy cause. One grand ball.

For the fifth year, the Johann Strauss Society Inc. stages the 2005 Opera Ball on Feb. 26 with the presentation to society of 10 debutantes at the Le Pavillon Metropolitan Park on Roxas Boulevard.

This time, the annual event will benefit the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC).

The JSS, a non-stock, nonprofit organization, was organized in 1999 upon the initiative of Kay Siazon, wife of then Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon.

The Siazons were posted in Vienna for 20 years where they developed an immense love for Austrian culture. JSS is composed of individuals with great interest in the music of great Austrian composers, foremost of whom was the celebrated Johann Strauss.

Attended by the country's social elite and the diplomatic corps, the annual JSS event is patterned after Vienna's grand opera ball, and features 10 to 20 debutantes who, by their participation, are committed to JSS' worthy causes.

Highlight of the event is the Debutantes Waltz, choreographed by a guest Austrian choreographer. The night also showcases a musical repertoire that includes classic selections of Austrian compositions.

The 2005 Opera Ball is co-presented by Mandarin Oriental Manila, Lifestyle Asia and Lifestyle Network.

For the Red Cross

But the opera ball is not a mere evening of extravagance. All that lavishness is for the benefit of a humanitarian cause (tel. 7508888 local 2222, Mandarin Oriental's PR department; or 5278384 local 160 or 121, PNRC Opera Ball secretariat).

In the past, proceeds from ticket sales and donations have benefited the Philippine Cancer Society and the Alay Kapwa Kilusang Pangkalusugan, among others.

"[I know of] Ben (Farrales)'s charitable causes… And when [I mentioned PNRC's need], Letty (Syquia) immediately said yes," says Rosa Rosal, PNRC governor. Syquia is JSS secretary/treasurer and this year's ball co-chair with Farrales and Rosal.

Rosal says PNRC needs a refrigerated centrifuge, a special equipment that will be a vast help in storing blood donations. It costs over P2 million, and is ordered from the United States.

Rosal notes that while PNRC is well equipped to supply safe blood to those in need, its refrigerated centrifuge is already 16 years old. "And it is used every day. I intend to buy a new one."

The indefatigable woman says whatever PNRC gets from the ball's proceeds is "something to start with. But I will go on begging."

She adds determinedly, "I know it won't be enough, but I will be approaching everyone and I will get it. Times are hard, but I will get it. I don't know how but I will."

Incidentally, Rosal is celebrating her 55th year with the Red Cross in July.

Waltzing debutantes

To be presented to society on Saturday night are Julie Ann Panlilio Mangio, Maria Rosa Noliza Felizardo Encarnacion, Christine Emilia Luz Hermoso, Aizza Francesca Briñas, Erica Therese Herrera, Johanna Vi Tuparan Cadungog, Marren Semondac Dimaculangan, Maria Rowena Soterranea Pe Eusebio, Maikee Farrales and Jamie Liz Castillo.

They were introduced to the press recently at the home of philanthropist and JSS adviser Chito Madrigal Collantes.

According to the Viennese ball tradition, the debutantes will wear full-length white ball gowns and tiaras with Swarovski crystals.

The Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra will perform under the baton of Austrian conductor Prof. Ernest Hoetzl. The repertoire includes Strauss, Mozart, Lehar and Ziehrer selections.

Austrian choreographer Susanne Jankula will direct the traditional Debutantes Waltz, while Gener Caringal will choreograph a waltz number by last year's debutantes.

A minuet, to be performed by select guests and heads of missions and their spouses, will take direction from Bujing Danao. There will also be classical performances by soprano Rachelle Gerodias and tenor Nolyn Cabahug.

The evening's dinner will be prepared by Mandarin Oriental's award-winning chefs.

The 2005 Opera Ball committee also includes co-chair Mellie Ablaza, Fortune Ledesma, Lina Aurelio, Mabel Abaño, Chit Gohu, Nini Layug, Alice Guerrero and Mandarin Oriental's general manager Helmut Gaisberger.

THE DRAGON and Lion Dance performed by the Philippine Ling Nam Athletic Association

Mall celebration of Chinese New Year

SHANGRI-LA Plaza ushered in the Year of the Wooden Rooster with various activities in and around the mall.

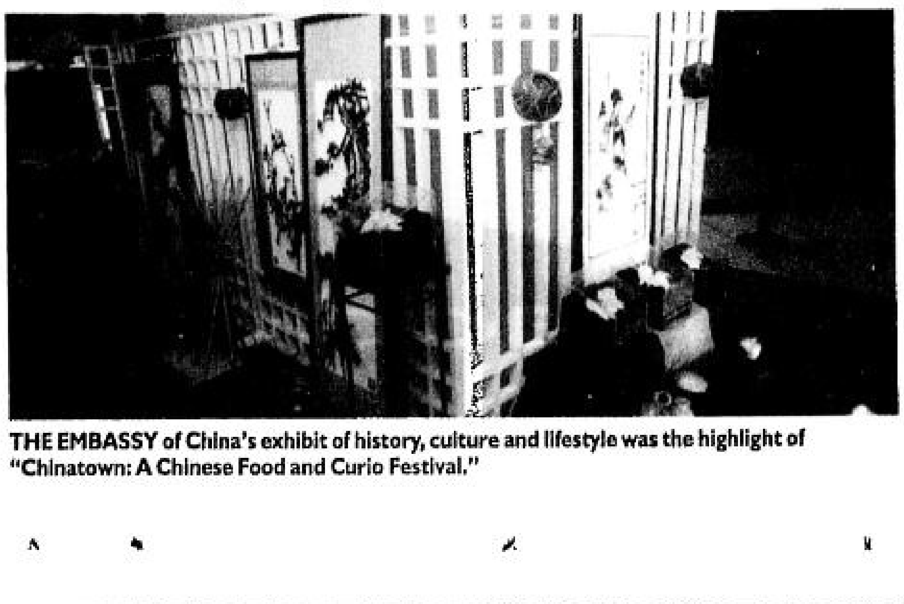
The mall was dressed up for the event with Chinese décor and various symbols.

Kicking off the celebration was a performance of the Dragon and Lion dances by the Philippine Ling Nam Athletic Association. The group also showcased martial arts skills.

The Echoettes Young Voices and Chiang Kai Shek Children's Choirs, performing separately, did traditional and contemporary Chinese and Filipino songs at the Grand Atrium.

At the Level 1 Exhibit Area, guests were treated to the exhibit, "Chinatown: A Chinese Food and Curio Festival," that offered Chinese delicacies, ornaments and lucky charms.

Prof. Charlie Chao gave free feng shui consultation to adults while the children attended the storytelling session on the "Rooster in the Sun" by the Alitaptap Storytellers Club at the Art Plaza.


THE EMBASSY of China's exhibit of history, culture and lifestyle was the highlight of "Chinatown: A Chinese Food and Curio Festival."

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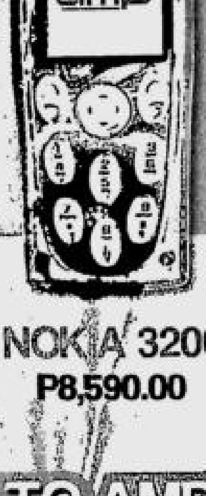

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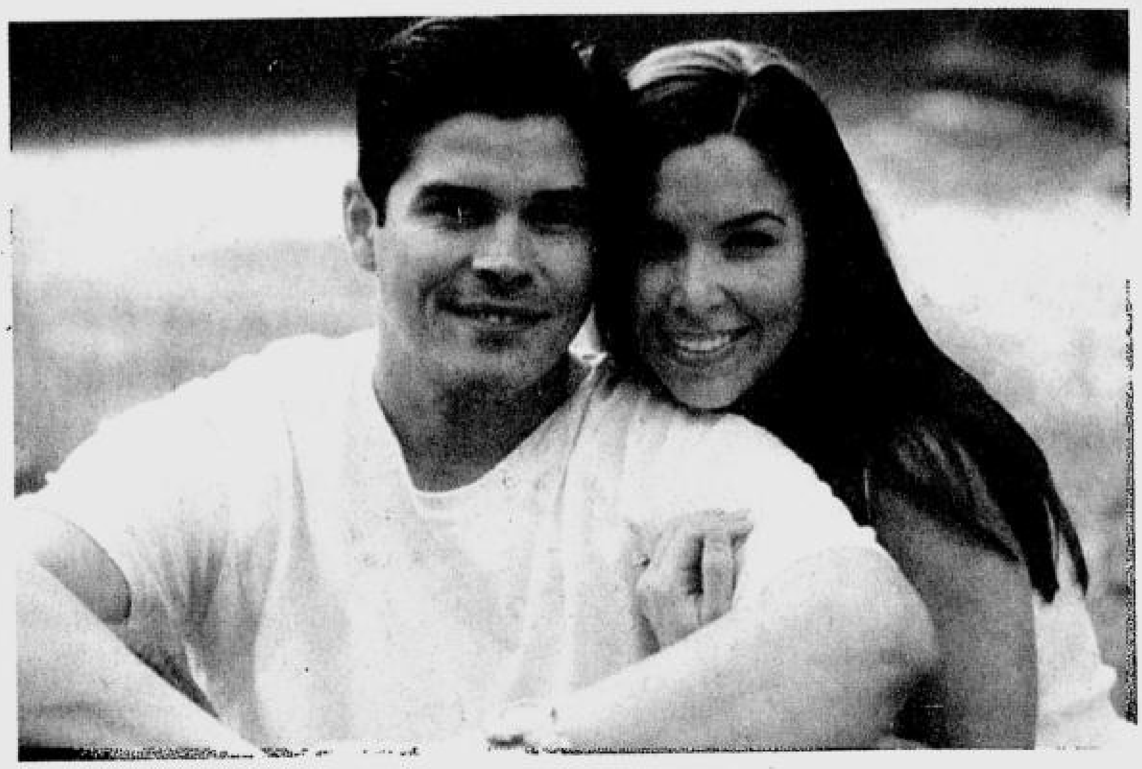


TOM and Monique Bugbee

A golden night with friends and family

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

JESUS "Choy" Sala and his bride, the former Rosebud Revilla, celebrated 50 golden years with a gathering of close friends and relations. The event was the highlight of the recent holiday season.

The day was doubly auspicious as it was Bud's birthday.

Rev. Fr. **Ernesto Javier**, SJ, officiated in the Mass of thanksgiving at the Blessed Pedro Kalungsod shrine. Dedicated to someone who will someday become the first Cebuano saint, the shrine is in the grounds of the Archbishop's Palace.

Following the emotive rites, there were cocktails at the Casino Español de Cebu. Dinner was at the Cervantes Hall.

Choy and Rosebud looked radiant, with that love glow that had always characterized them. "We have so many reasons to be happy," they said. "All our children and grandchildren are here."

Eldest of the brood, **Marvi Sala**, had a hand in the cocktail buffet as well as the dinner, preparing some of the dishes herself. The *bacalao* was wiped out in no time.

Marvi looked very happy as she cradled a pretty little girl, **Angela**, her ward; actually the daughter of her most trusted house help.

The Sala's only male heir, **Ikey Sala**, came with his wife **Marivic** (nee Montalban) and their young son **Jkey**. Also with them were Marivic's children from an earlier marriage, **Maricris** and **Jiggy Gandionco**.

Dazzling guests

From New York came **Tini Sala** and her husband **Russ Pomeranz**, who were overwhelmed by the dazzling quality of the guests. They made sure they met everyone.

The youngest of the family, **Stella Sala**, was as elfin as ever. Her daughter **Aya** wore an identical gown of white streaked with golden yellow. When the music played, they danced together. Someone said they could be mistaken for sisters.

"What's your secret?" Choy and Rosebud were asked by everyone. They answered almost in unison, "The first thing we do upon waking up every morning is hug each other, and then we have breakfast together." Many thought that would make a good New Year's resolution.

Angelita Lhuillier, Choy's first cousin, was very much present, holding court with daughter **Angie L. Mathieu**, plus **Michel** and **Amparito Lhuillier**. Her table was well chosen as it afforded a vantage view of who came in (and who went out, for that matter).

Much awaited

"Are they coming soon?" asked Angeling referring to her two granddaughters, **Yvette** and **Monique** who, with their husbands **Franck Warnod** and **Tom Bugbee**, respectively, were expected from Amanpulo at any moment. They finally arrived, and there was a rush to meet them.

Yvette and Franck live in Paris; Monique and Tom in Beverly Hills, California. Of course, we all know who Monique is—the celebrity of the moment in the international fashion scene. Note the number of Hollywood stars who order their wedding gowns as well as evening wear from her.

As a matter of fact, Newsweek has just done a two-page spread on her in their Asia edition. Well, you should see the American issue, where the article is published word-for-word. On the cover there's a window that describes her as Hollywood's hottest designer. Right above President **George W. Bush**'s head!

In every interview she gives, Monique proudly states she was born in Cebu, that she got her fashion sense from her mother Amparito (nee Llamas), and, from both her parents, the qualities that made her a well-bred person. We see that every time she visits, in her graciousness and her sense of humor.

More time for design

Monique said now that she had set up a studio in her home, she had more time for designing, her forte really. She knows every aspect of her profession as well. Tom Bugbee is an ace accountant and, together, they have turned a $10,000-initiative into a multimillion dollar concern.

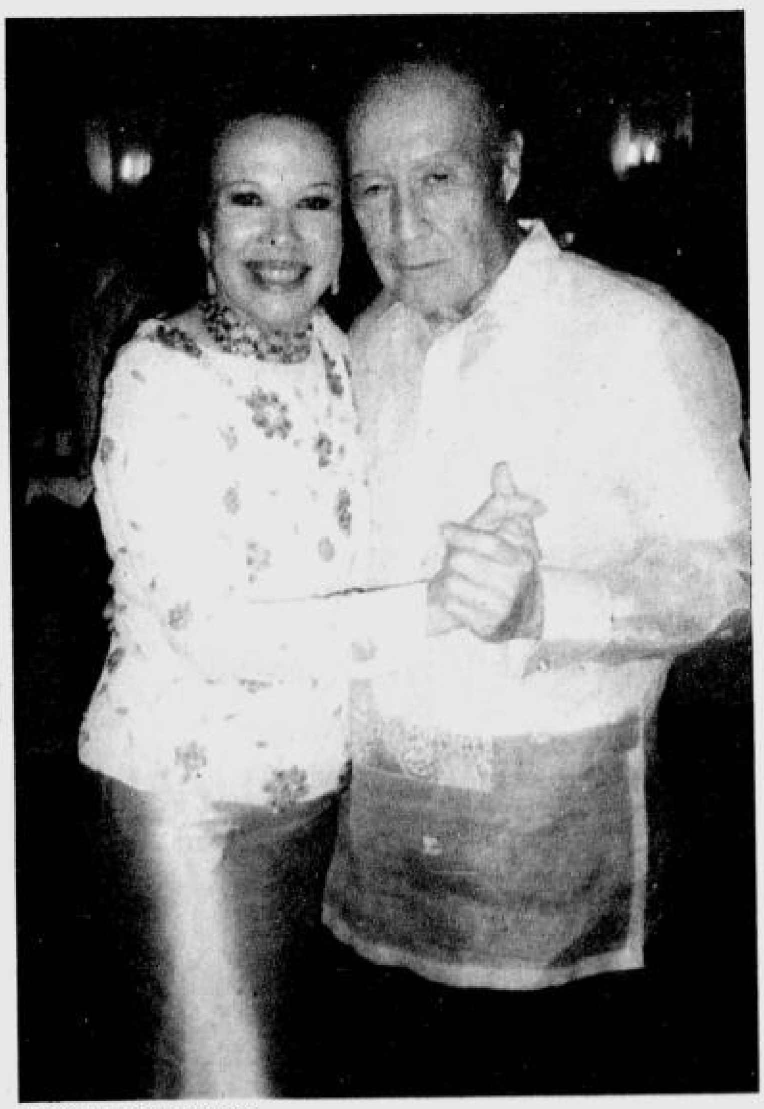
And it keeps growing, judging from the constant increase in their volume of sales. That will grow further when Monique opens her own outlet in the heart of Manhattan. Watch her when the Oscars night is televised. She will do the fashion commentary as the stars glide, or trip, on the red carpet.

I've been asked many times by different publications to write about Monique, having known her since the day she was born. I can still picture Amparito in her hospital suite, cradling her youngest baby and showing everyone what a beauty she was.

I guess I could start from there, but what the readers most like to know is her current life, which is in a constant state of evolution. As you read this she has just presented her fall/winter collection in New York City to the international fashion trade.

Tom and Monique say if there has to be a fashion show cum fund raiser in the Philippines it will have to be in October because of other commitments. The show will be in Manila, though every Cebuano wishes there will be one here, too.

What is their fondest dream? Monique and Tom are mum, but we do know they'd like to have a family soon. They may not have a name for their firstborn yet, but they do have a name for a children's line of clothes they are considering. Bugbee, what else?



CHOY and Rosebud Sala

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4. To qualify for the cash prizes at the end of the promo period, Goldmine Agents should have at least fifty (50) approved and installed subscriptions. All qualified Goldmine Agents will be ranked according to the most number of approved applications and awarded the following:

Category	Cash Prize (in PhP)
Platinum Category: Top 5	Php 300,000
Diamond Category: Top 6-15	Php 150,000
Gold Category: Top 16 – 25	Php 75,000
Ruby Category: Top 26 – 35	Php 50,000
Silver Category: Top 36 – 45	Php 20,000
Bronze Category: Top 46 – 55	Php 10,000
Pearl Category: Top 56 – 65	Php 5,000

5. Promo period is from January 10, 2005 to May 10, 2005. Deadline for submission of referrals with complete required documents is on May 10, 2005, 5:00pm.
6. Successful new applications credited to the account of the Goldmine Agent are non-transferable.
7. The Goldmine Agent is not an employee of PLDT. He is not authorized to collect money or any other monetary form from the telephone applicants.
8. All existing promos at the time of the application shall apply to the applicant. PLDT will confirm availability of every line application by mailing an official notice to the subscriber. PLDT will install the line within five (5) days from receipt of payment. All subscriptions are covered by an 18-month contract or lock-in period. Pre-termination rates of P2,500 apply.
9. Standard policies of PLDT on Credit and Collection shall apply. PLDT reserves the right to disqualify any Goldmine Agent from the Program if any violation is committed on existing policies on subscription, credit and collection and/or commit acts of fraud.

See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3165, Series of 2004.

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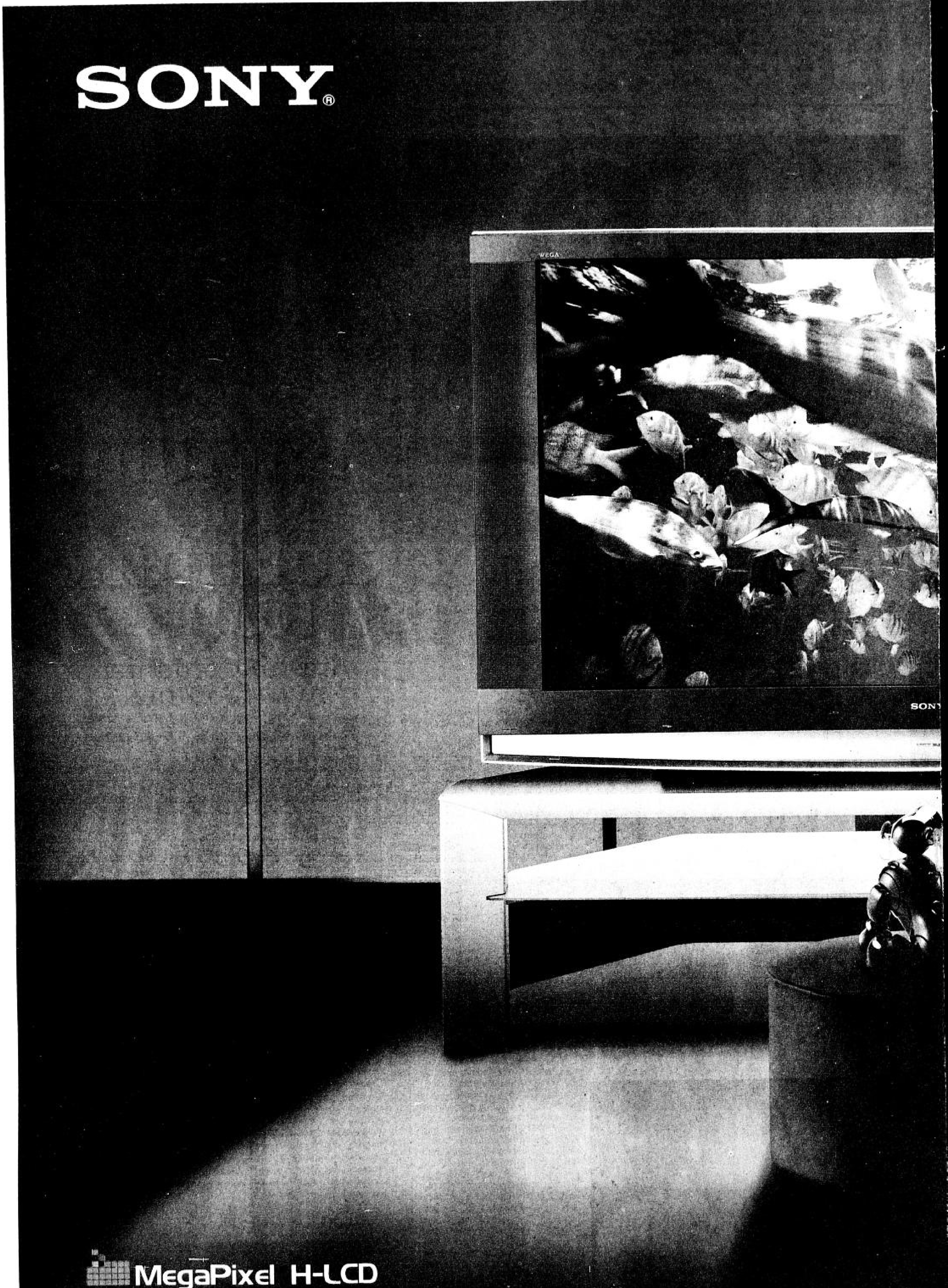

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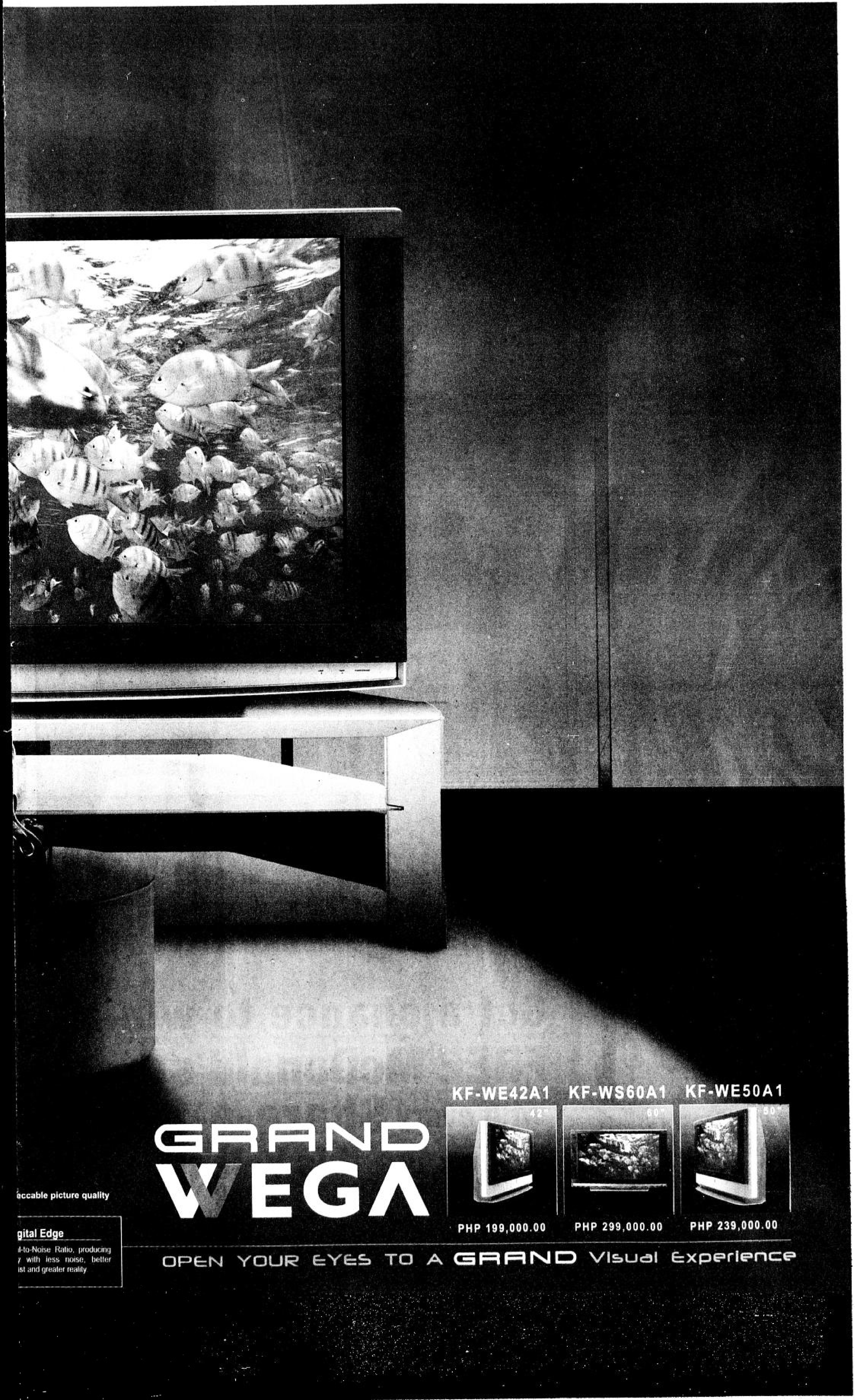

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42"	60"	50"
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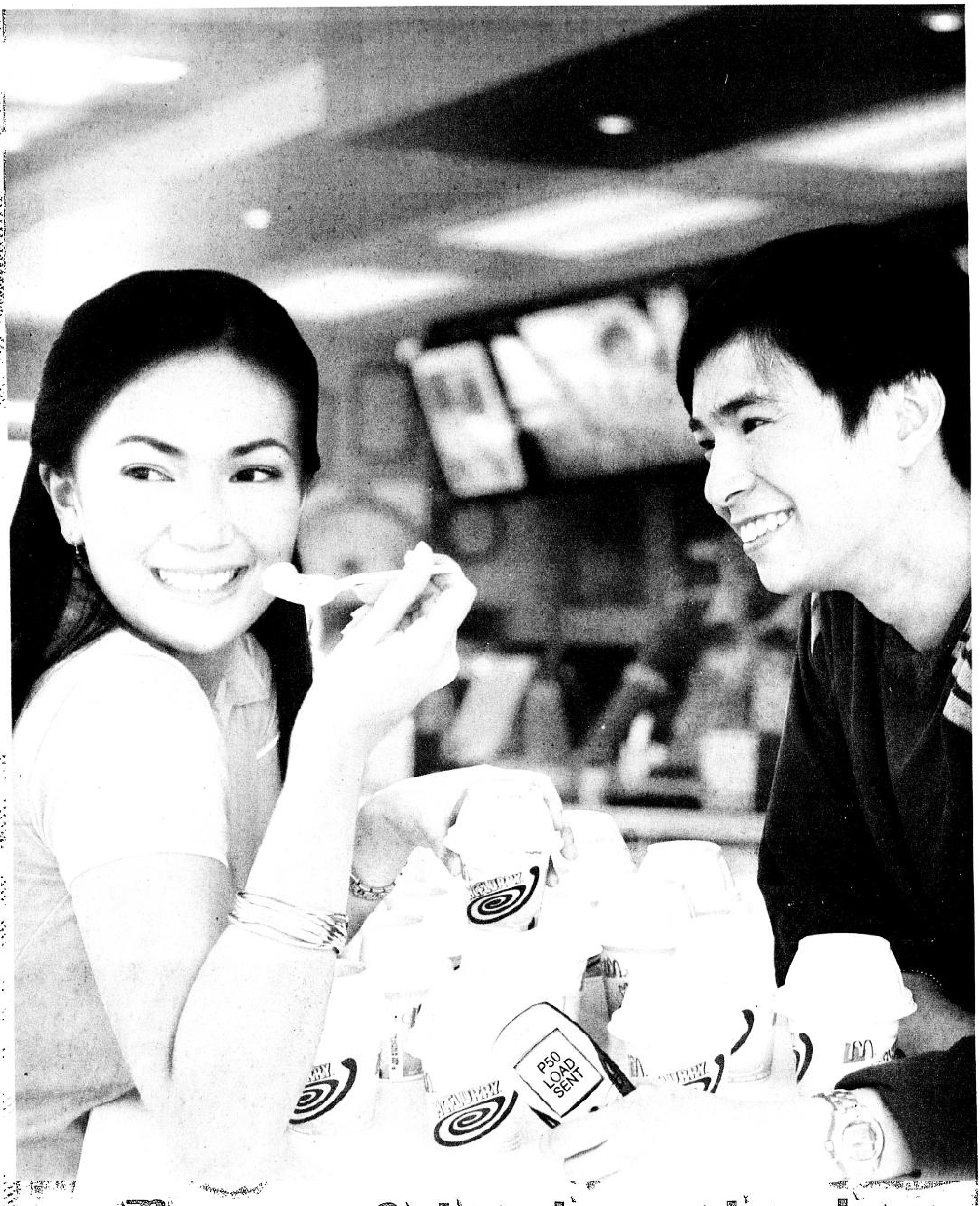

Be my Share a Load Valentine

Get a chance to win a FREE McDonald's treat with every Share-a-Load you make this Valentine's!

To [illegible] FREE [illegible] REG SHARE MCDO
full name [illegible] full addr[illegible] 2854
Ex: REG SHARE MCDO [illegible] Globe St., Quezon City

Winners will receive a text advisory which they can show at any participating McDonald's outlet to avail of their FREE treat. Prizes must be redeemed within 60 days from receipt of the text message.

Hurry! Promo until February 25, 2006 only!

For inquiries, call 215 for GLOBE, 815 for TOUCH MOBILE or 730-1055 for landline calls.

Every 50th loader of at least P50 INSTANTLY wins any one of these sweet McDonald's treats:

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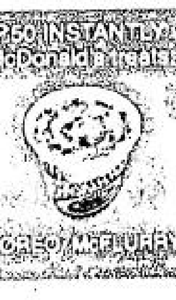
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0348, Series of 2005.

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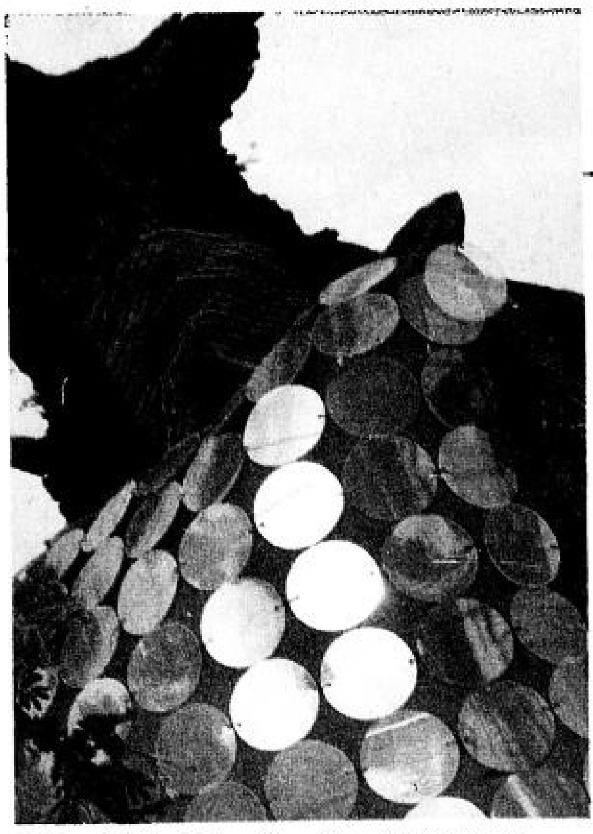
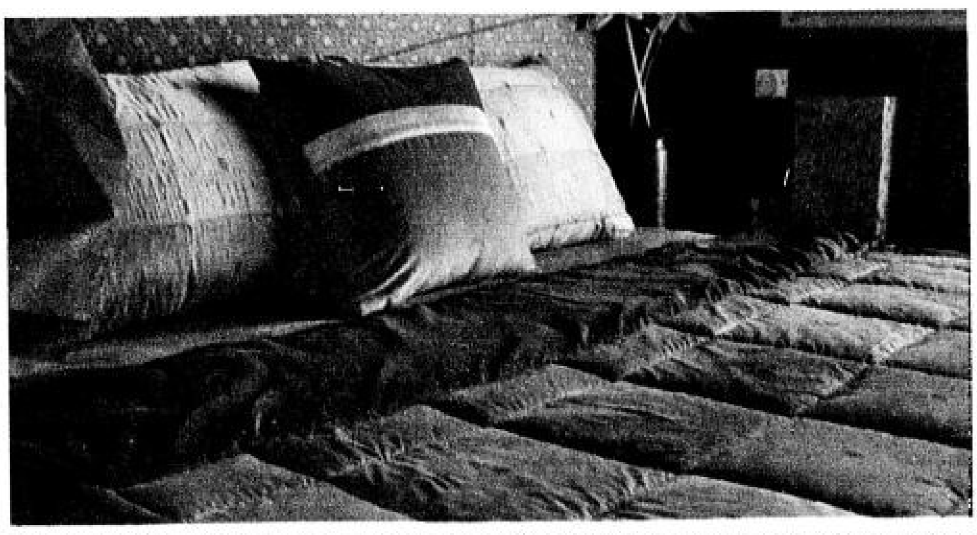
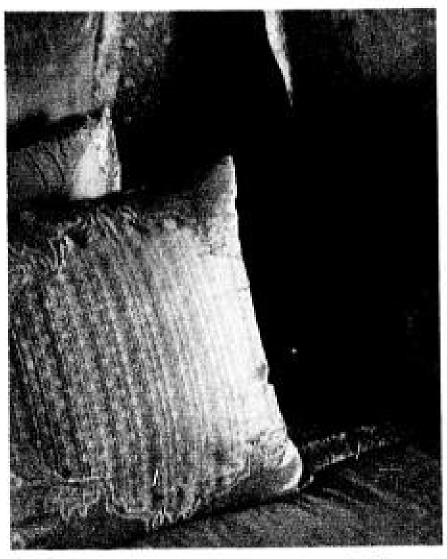
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)



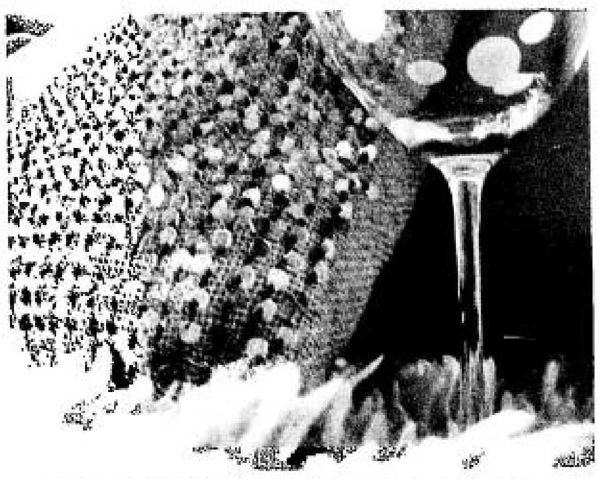
THIS embellished Zeba pillow will surely brighten up anyone's home.



SUNSET SERENADE. The bright colors of the silk quilt and pillows infuse a warm, exotic touch to the bedroom.



BOMBAY dreams—a combination of silk pillows and cushions with embroidery



BRIGHT-COLORED pillows with intricate designs and embroidery

Trailblazing Indian brand now in Manila

ZEBA, a leading brand of home fashion design in India, is now available in Manila.

"The home is as much a fashion product as the people who live in it," reads the mantra of Zeba. "Zeba comes from the Persian word *zebaish*, which means 'beautiful,'" explains Anna Mahtani, company president and herself an art and interior design enthusiast.

Zeba offers bed covers, quilts, pillow cases, table covers, napkins, chair pads, floor cushions, curtains and drapes, plus chic lifestyle accessories such as wine bags, stoles, screens, parasols, lamp shades and a lot more.

Zeba was founded in 1986 by Rajan Mehta, eventually expanding and enjoying international recognition from countries such as USA, Italy, Spain, UK and South Africa.

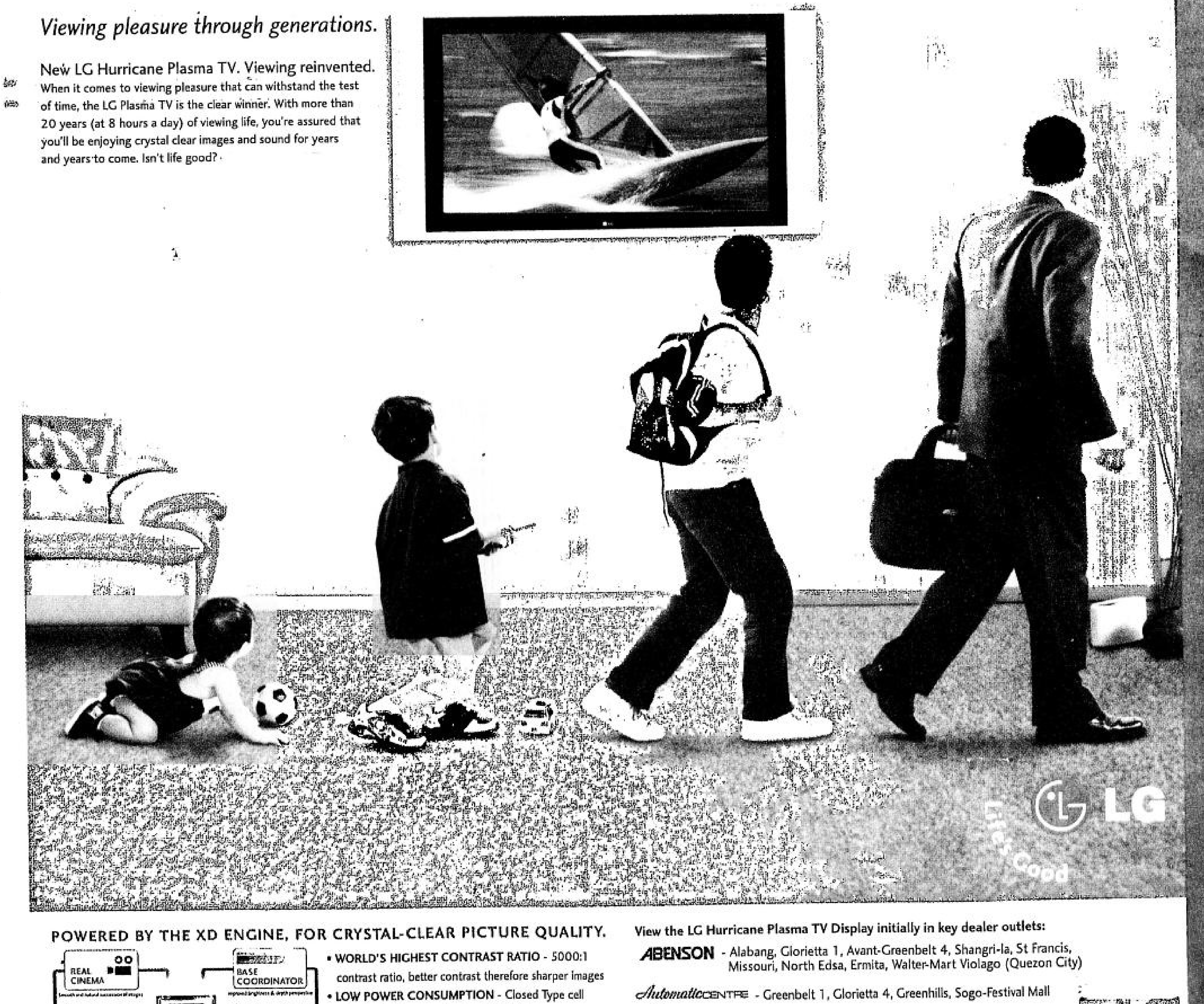
Much of Zeba's growth is credited to Mehta's son, Krishna Mehta, who is at present Zeba's creative division head. His signature achievement is using Indian arts and motifs in his deconstructed designs, resulting in home furnishings that fuse the ancient and the new.

Each product is unique, with lots of details: cutworks and appliques, beads, pearls, sequins lace and tassels, in resplendent colors such as emperor blue, vibrant red, shimmering gold, snowy white and fiery orange, among others.

Zeba is available at Rustan's Makati, Alabang and Ermita, and at Federal Design Expo on Pasong Tamo, Makati City.

Viewing pleasure through generations.

New LG Hurricane Plasma TV. Viewing reinvented.
When it comes to viewing pleasure that can withstand the test of time, the LG Plasma TV is the clear winner. With more than 20 years (at 8 hours a day) of viewing life, you're assured that you'll be enjoying crystal clear images and sound for years and years to come. Isn't life good?



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- LONG LIFE TIME - world best 60,000 hr life time(8 hours a day for more than 20 years), long life and durability

View the LG Hurricane Plasma TV Display initially in key dealer outlets:

ABENSON - Alabang, Glorietta 1, Avant-Greenbelt 4, Shangri-la, St Francis, Missouri, North Edsa, Ermita, Walter-Mart Violago (Quezon City)

Automatic CENTRE - Greenbelt 1, Glorietta 4, Greenhills, Sogo-Festival Mall

SM Appliance Center - Southmall, Makati, Rockwell, Megamall, North Edsa (Basement) and (Main)

Super Mart - Balibago

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0623, Series of 2005.
Promo period is from February 8 to March 31, 2005 only.

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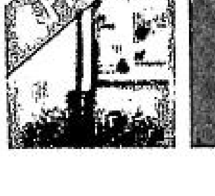

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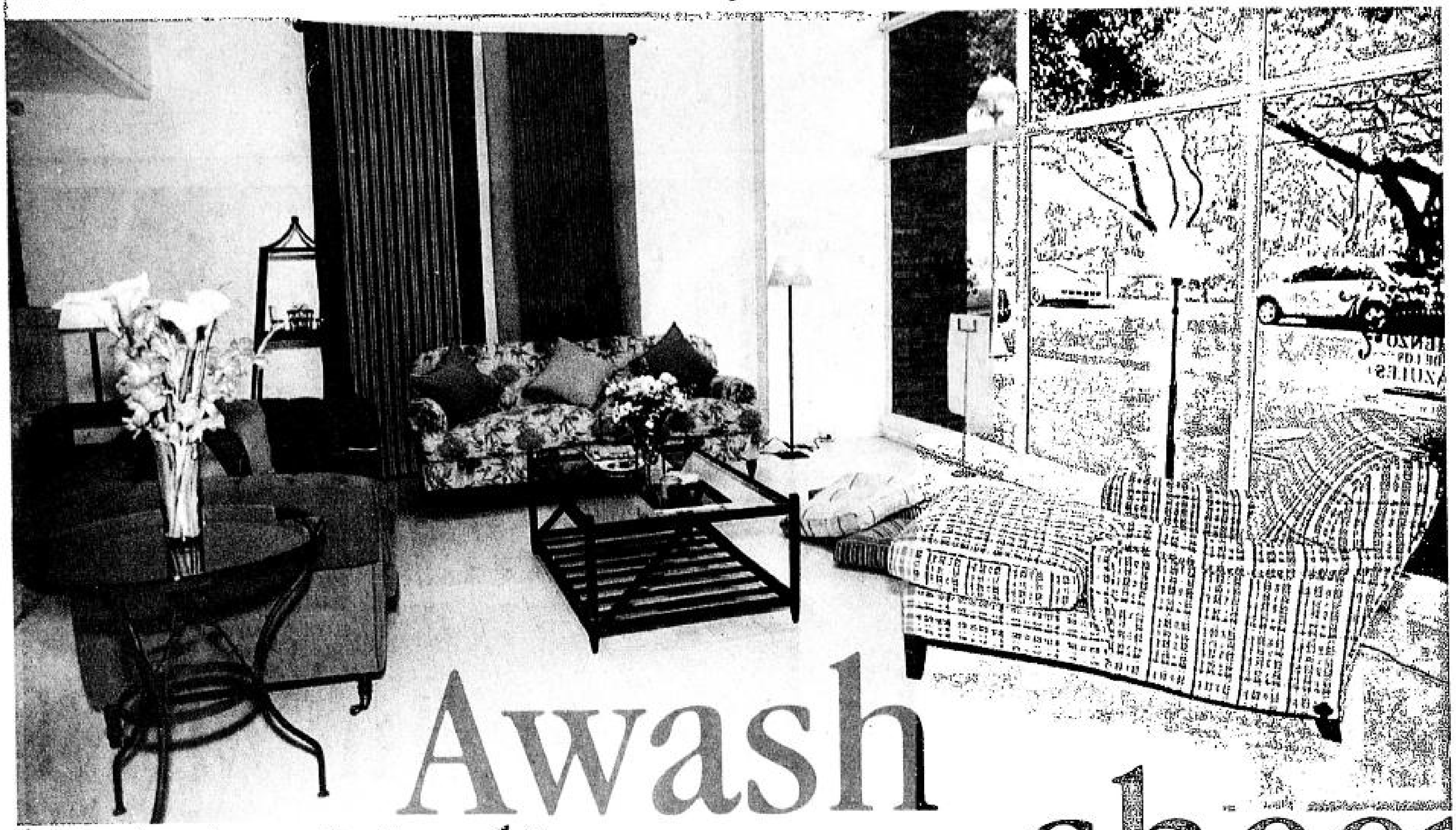


Spanish design house Lienzo de los Gazules is now in the country to stoke the home design craze further

Awash in Mediterranean sheen

ARM colors such as rust, ochre, brick-red and taupe rule this living room showcase.

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Rudy Esperas

INTERIOR designers have a new source of Mediterranean-inspired and crafted fabrics and furniture for the home. And we don't mean another Italian brand.

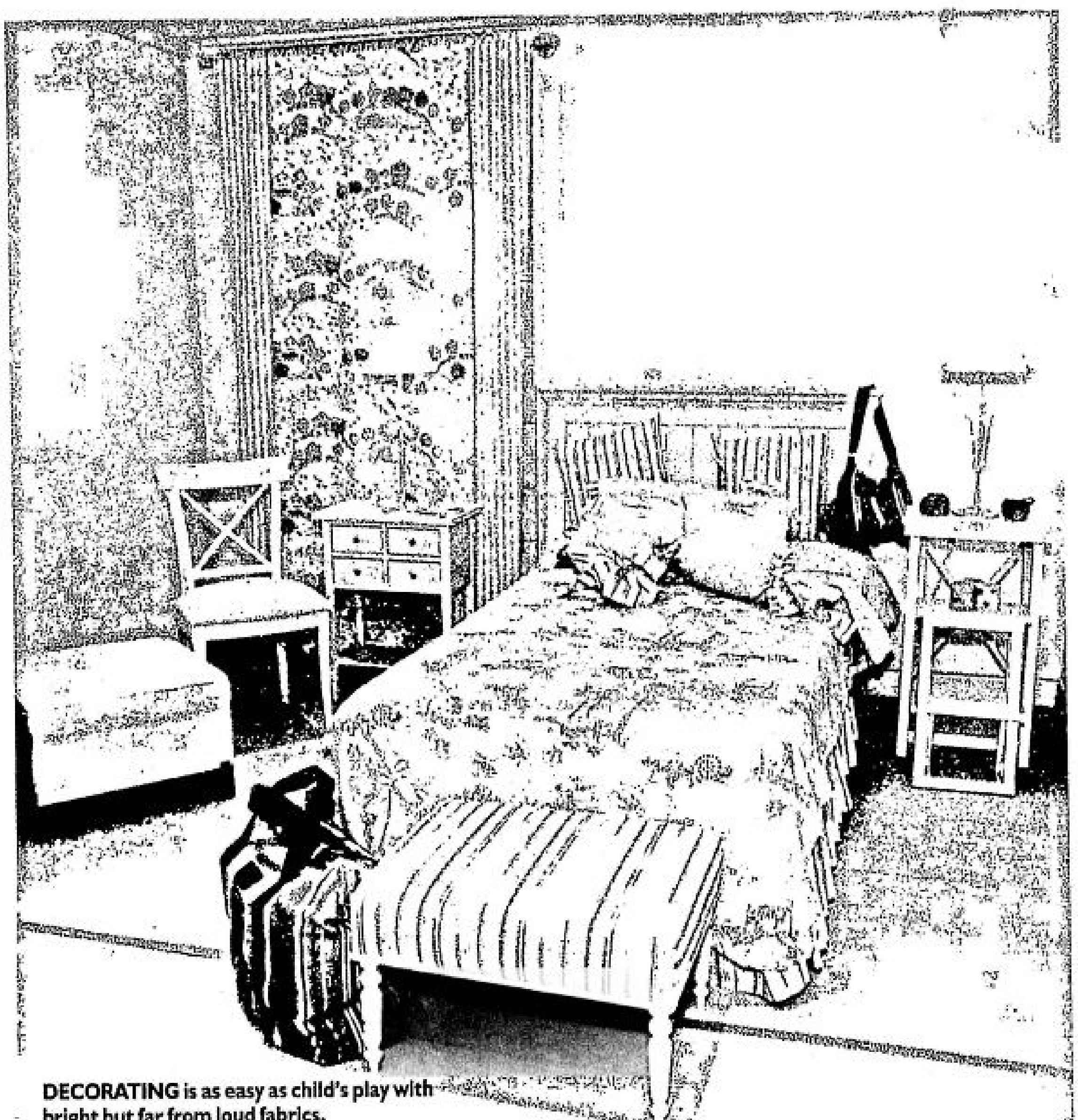
Spanish brand Lienzo de los Gazules recently opened its first store in the Philippines in Legaspi Village, Makati. Its ground floor showroom at First Midland Building on Gamboa Street (tel. 8175638) carries the brand's full range of plain and printed curtain materials and furniture fabrics that boast of earthy Mediterranean colors such as terra cotta, rust, ochre, taupe, old rose, pale blue, golden brown and brick red.

Printed varieties, which comprise close to 60 percent, are subdued and have a distressed quality in keeping with the region's overall mood and flavor. That's why those set on doing a Hawaiian-themed room are better off looking elsewhere for materials. One thing's for sure: there are no loud fabrics with bold floral prints in this store.

Plain upholstery fabric made of blended polyester, linen and cotton costs between P1,500-P2,500 a meter, while the high-end and textured "tapestry" look can set you back by P4,000 a meter.

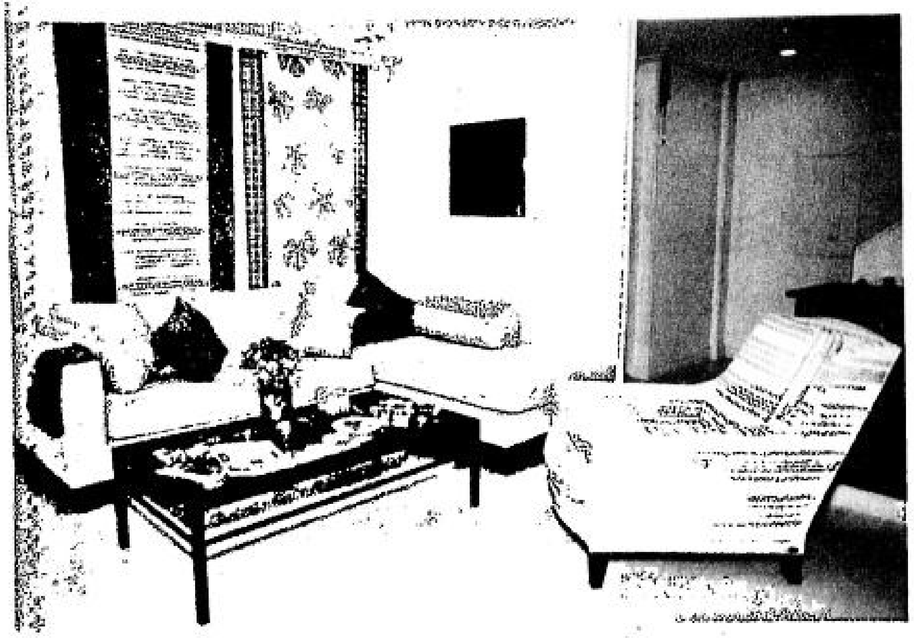
"We accept orders as small as one meter," says sales executive Sheila Gargantiel. "But since everything is imported from Spain, clients have to wait for at least three to four weeks for their orders to arrive."

Apart from the extensive range of colors and textures Lienzo offers, it also provides clients such options as fabrics with double width (280 cm wide compared to the standard 140 cm). In the case of printed curtains and bed sheets, such a wider width is bound to make your seamstress' life easier and your curtains and bed sheets more beautiful. No patterns to align means goodbye to unsightly seams as well as lesser wastage.



DECORATING is as easy as child's play with bright but far from loud fabrics.

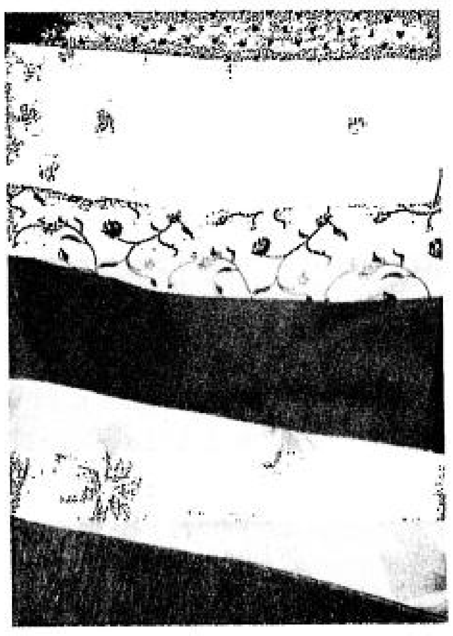
FLORAL prints, Mediterranean-style



SPACE-SAVING furniture pieces for today's condo unit or townhouse

THE LOOK is decidedly subdued in keeping with the region's balmy feel.

COLOR-CODED fabrics follow dominant shades found in Duratrans images above.



COORDINATED shades for a cohesive and expensive look

Wide variety

Lienzo also offers a wide variety of padded furniture pieces such as sofas, easy chairs and divans, many of which have been modified to fit smaller living spaces typical of condo units and townhouses. Every piece comes in beige cotton-blend fabric that clients can later remove and have reupholstered with their preferred Lienzo material.

The shop, which is partly owned and managed by Ed Enriquez of McKenzie & Wells, also doubles as Lienzo's master franchisee in the country. As such, the company has exclusive rights to grant franchises.

"Of course, the benchmark would still be Italian fabrics and furniture pieces," says Enriquez. "I haven't had the chance to compare them with Lienzo's products lately, but people in the know swear that items we carry are comparable in beauty and quality and are much more affordably priced."

The biggest chunk of Lienzo's clientele is decidedly composed of interior designers, but there have been end users who have found their way to its clean, quiet and well-lit showroom, which, incidentally, exudes the look and feel of a typical Lienzo store found the world over.

To make it easier for clients, fabrics have been grouped according to colors and follow the dominant shade reflected in the Duratrans image above a particular shelf.

"In fact," says Enriquez, who recently went on a 10-day business trip to Spain, "Lienzo's designers even introduced some improvements in our showroom. For one, they further minimized clutter to allow products to stand out."

Interior designers from the company's head office in Spain came here to personally supervise the Manila showroom's design and construction. The mall was the last place Enriquez and company considered to set up shop. Not that they don't want to bother with walk-in customers, but they have more than enough business in their hands dealing with industry practitioners.

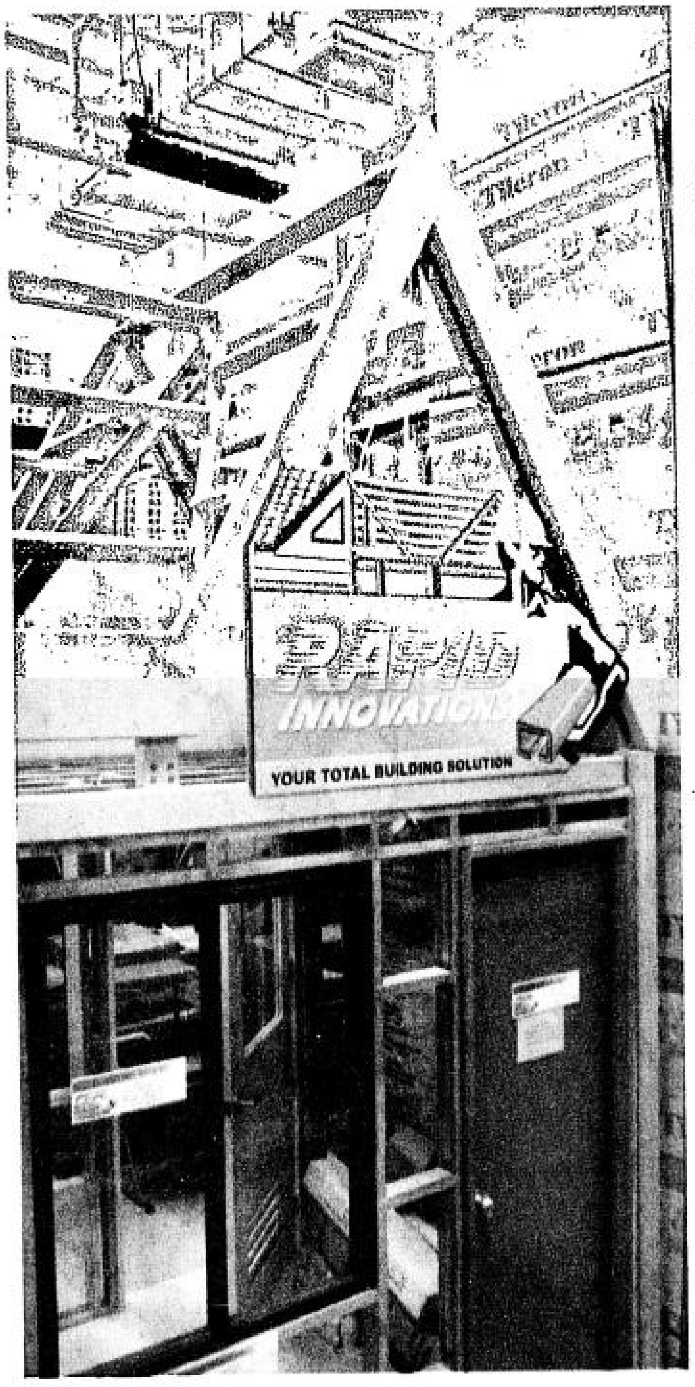
"But everyone's welcome to visit us," he adds. "We also carry home accessories like pillow cases and candles. For ordinary people who have a clear idea of what they want, we can send people to their homes to do measurements [for them] for free."

For those without the slightest clue, in-house interior designers Ellen Dumalo and Aileen Gutierrez are on standby to assist them with their needs. And customers need not buy in bulk to get much-needed attention. A mere meter will do.

E-mail avergara@inquirer.com.ph

Renovating your space

Ortigas Home Depot offers tips on how to redo your walls and ceilings



MATERIALS and supplies for drywall repair from companies like Rapid are available at the Ortigas Home Depot.

IF YOU have problems about your walls and ceilings, here are some helpful tips from Ortigas Home Depot.

When remodeling, it may be necessary to construct additional wall partitions to create new spaces. Demolition work may be required to uncover the sub-floor and ceiling joists to provide secure attachment points for the new wall. In building a new interior wall, doorway openings should be reinforced with extra studs and a header across the top for a sturdy framing.

The most common finish materials for walls and ceilings is the gypsum wallboard or drywall. Drywall repairs typically involve fixing dents and popped nails, filling nail holes and patching holes punched through the wall. These problems can usually be fixed with simple techniques and tools. When you're installing drywall on both ceilings and walls, apply the ceiling first. This is because wall panels should support the edges of the ceiling panels.

When handling wallboards, take care not to bend or break the corners or tear the paper covering. Concealing the joints with drywall tape and compound between panels and in the corners demands patience and care. Buy wallboard tapes and pre-mixed joint compound to make your job easier.

After the repair, you must paint the repaired area to match the rest of the wall. If you don't have paint that matches, you will have to completely repaint the entire wall. The key to a quality job is blending the repair with the surrounding surface. This is often done in stages over a period of days. Unless you want color gradation.

On walls, panels may be positioned vertically or horizontally. But install the panels horizontally if possible as this helps bridge irregularities between studs and results in a stronger wall, making any finishing work simpler.

Paneling

Paneling is sold in two main forms—sheets and boards. Opt for a style that suits almost any home décor. Choices include rustic boards, frame and panel designs with or without molding, and elaborate raised panels. You can cover an entire wall or choose waist—or shoulder—high wainscoting. Paneling can be made of fine hardwoods or inexpensive pine.

Finishes offer a wide variety of range to choose from: painted, stained, given a clear finish, or coated with any number of decorations.

When handling metal ceilings, always wear a pair of sturdy leather gloves, as most are as sharp as knife. It is prudent to go for safely engineered suspended ceiling systems like the CMT brand. It was designed with maximum flexibility for either conventional or diagonal layout.

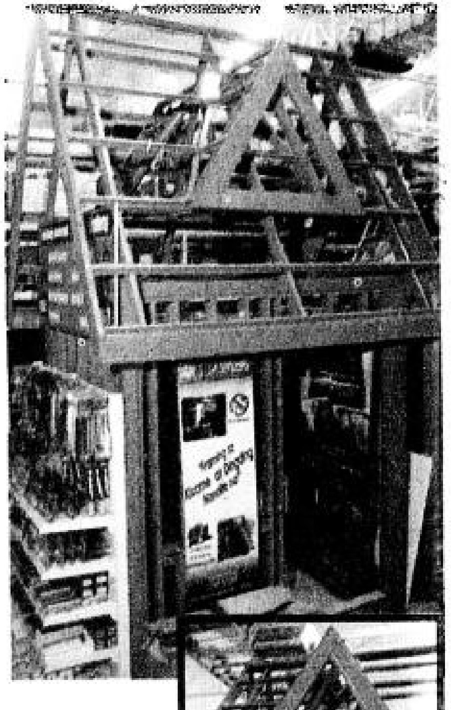
After installation, you must finish off a metal ceiling with some type of protective coating or it will eventually rust. A coat of polyurethane can be applied if you wish to keep the metal finish, but it will not hide caulk and imperfections.

Before using any finish, wipe the panels with mineral spirits to remove grease and factory coatings; use an oil-based primer as the water in latex primers can rust the panels; and, go for an oil-based finish coat because it is less likely to show brush and roller strokes. Drywalls including accessories are produced by companies like Rapid, Atlanta and JEA Steel Industries.

Trim and moldings, on the other hand, are available in a large variety of profiles—from standard lumber trim to customized one-of-a-kind designs. No matter what style you choose, trim and moldings accomplish two basic tasks: concealing gaps between the wall covering and floor, windows and door; and adding architectural interest to a room. These are the little details that break the monotony of barren textures and stark linear patterns.

In installing your molding for a suspended ceiling, first figure the ceiling height that is at least 3 inches below any plumbing works and 5 inches below all light connections. A standard ceiling height is 7 feet and 6 inches. Later, snap a chalk line around the room at your chosen level and install right-angle molding just covering the line.

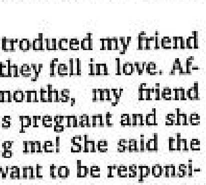
Visit the Ortigas Home Depot at No. 1 Doña Julia Vargas Ave., Brgy. Ugong, Pasig City.



ADDITIONAL wall partitions may have to be constructed to create new spaces when remodeling.

Blamed for friend's pregnancy

EMILY'S POST



Emily A. Marcel

DEAR Emily,

I met a guy through the Internet and we decided to meet in person a few weeks later.

He told me he liked me and I said I felt the same way. A few weeks later he asked, "What if the guy you like doesn't like you anymore?" I answered I'd set him free.

Later, I introduced my friend to him and they fell in love. After three months, my friend said she was pregnant and she was blaming me! She said the guy didn't want to be responsible for her condition and, had I not introduced them, this wouldn't have happened to her.

Do you think I'm responsible for her problem? Please answer me because my life is in the middle of nowhere.

FAD

Does your female friend live in the twilight zone? Did you put a gun to her head and force her to have sex with this guy from cyberspace?

Were her limbs impaired that she couldn't run away from him? Or is she claiming she was kidnapped and chained to a post? That's like blaming you for her house's burning down because you gave her matches.

This female friend of yours seems a bit unhinged up there. Check if she can at least count from 1 to 10 or recite all the letters of the alphabet!

Did you pick up any immoral lesson from this episode? If you did, let me add two more. First, discard ex-future suitors by dumping them in a trash can and not by introducing them to eager friends who are retarded. It's not worth the agony, the heartache and the migraine of feeling like being in the middle of nowhere.

Second, if you must and do introduce your male friends to your female friends, gift them with boxes and boxes of condoms, with instructions that can be understood easily—in case they had just returned from an extended trip to Mars.

Only then can you go scot-free if anything goes awry. I think that's pretty obvious. Wheww! Some people are truly unbelievable! What again is the politically correct term for idiot?

I'm a Filipino-American who has lived in Los Angeles for the last 20 years. I'm 48 and was granted recently a divorce from a marriage that was doomed from the start.

I'm not going to bore you with my life story. But I wonder if you can help me find a pen pal through your column. I am financially stable, athletic, humorous and love the finer things in life. Gardening, landscaping, jogging and watching movies are a few of my hobbies.

The woman I am looking for should be at least 5'3" tall, preferably educated, full-bodied between the ages of 28 and 40 years old. I hope that special someone is reading my request for a pen pal right now. She can e-mail me at jonmalaya@aol.com. I promise to answer all letters.

Your inbox will definitely be flooded with e-mail from women who'd read this—from desperate housewives, bored clerks and secretaries, to nursing students—all wanting a ticket out of this country. But why are you limiting yourself only to those not more than 40 years old? Does that mean you will not give yourself a chance to meet those fantastic, exciting women of the world, those life-loving golden girls who can teach you a thing or two about survival and who are also looking for companionship?

You will zero in on one or two women eventually. And whether you like it or not, you'll be meeting con artists, wannabes and every type of female configuration who will present themselves in every packaging conceivable by a fertile imagination! Are you prepared?

Have you thoroughly learned your lessons from your earlier blunder, albeit licensed? Take your time. Get to know these women well because you wouldn't want to make it a habit to walk down the aisle with every imaginable mistake, would you?

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, dwBR 104.3 FM

Buti pa ang chicken, may ka-partner.

Max's Hearty Chicken Meal for four
₱ 559
1/2 Fried Chicken, 2 Lumpiang Shanghai, regular Pancit Canton, 4 rice, 4 NESTEA, 8 pcs. Irish Truffles.

Max's Hearty Chicken Meal for two
₱ 299
1/2 Fried Chicken (or 4 pcs. Family Basket Chicken), small Pancit Canton, 2 rice, 2 NESTEA, 4 pcs. Irish Truffles.

May ka-partner ka man o wala, di dapat kang magmukmok ngayong Valentine's, dahil may **Max's Hearty Chicken Meals**. Complete, affordable set meals na may kasamang tamis ng Irish Truffles for dessert. Good para sa isa o dalawang partners, tiyak ma-inlove kayo sa sarap. Kaya kung wala ka pang date, maghanap na ng kaparis para ma-enjoy mo na ang Max's Hearty Meals!

7-9000 DELIVERY

Promo runs from February 10 to March 13, 2005.
Prices are VAT inclusive, applicable municipal tax will be added.
For delivery and take-out, add P11 to get one Pepsi in can.
Above prices are subject to delivery charge.

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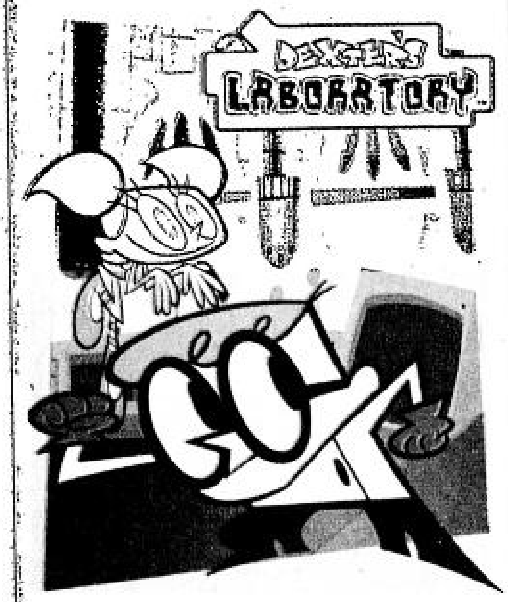
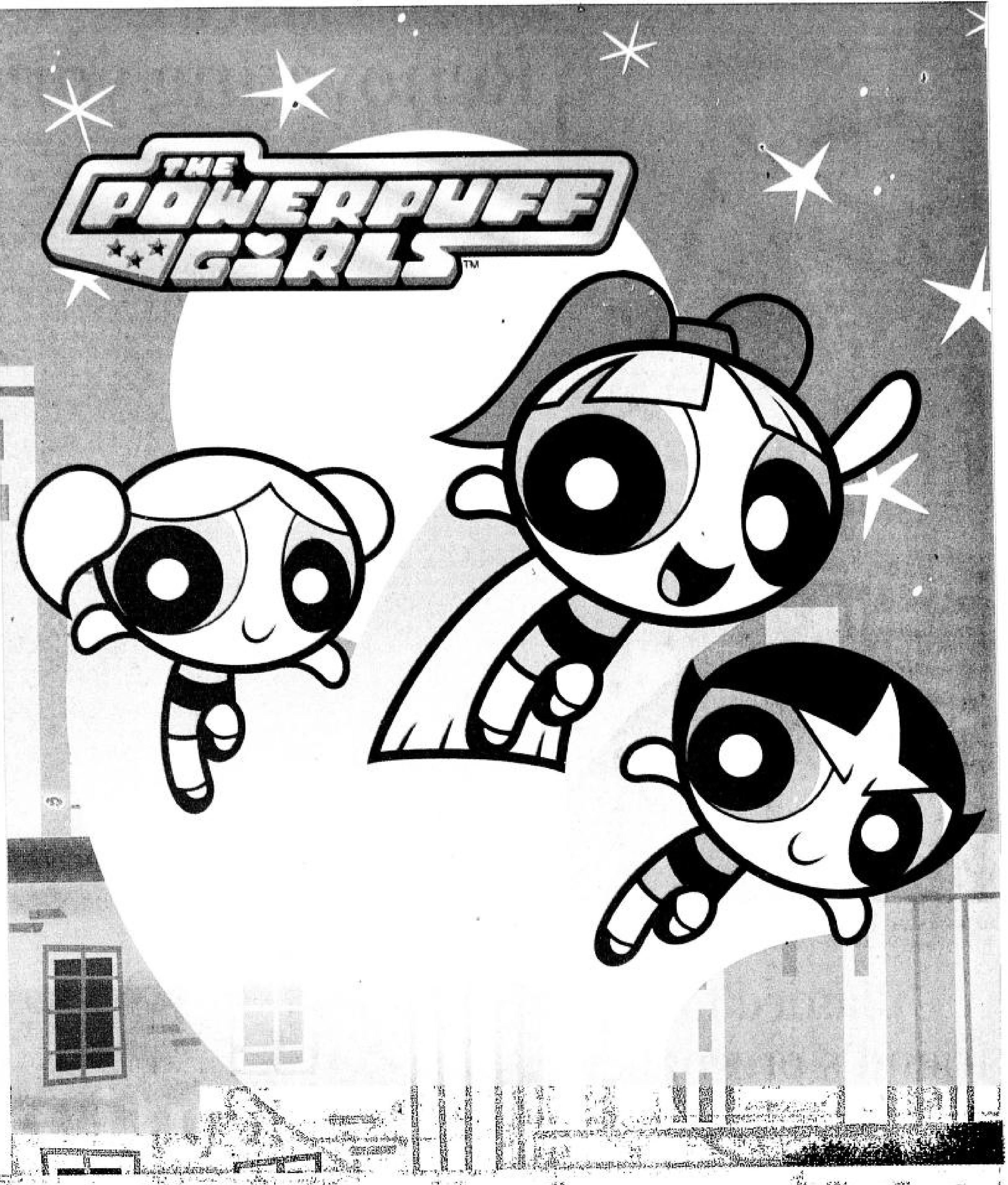
Per DTI Permit No. 0537 Series of 2005.

Max's RESTAURANT





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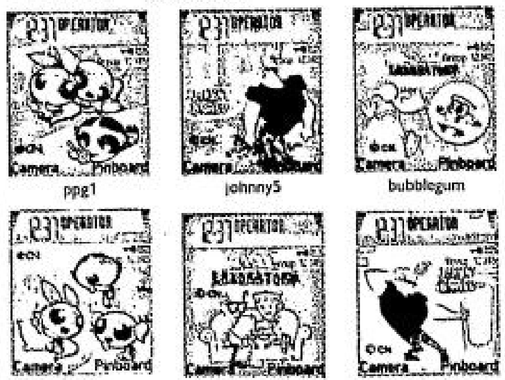
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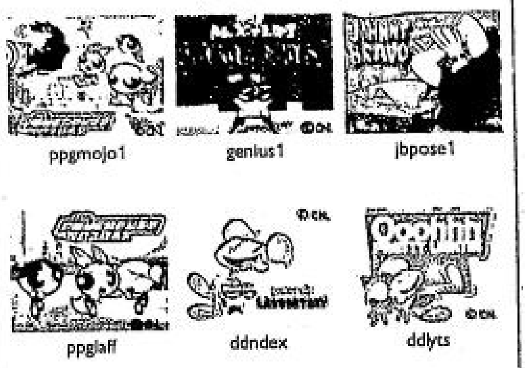
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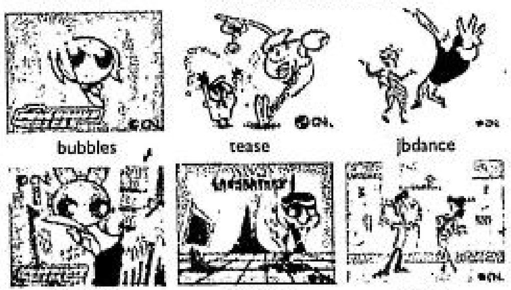
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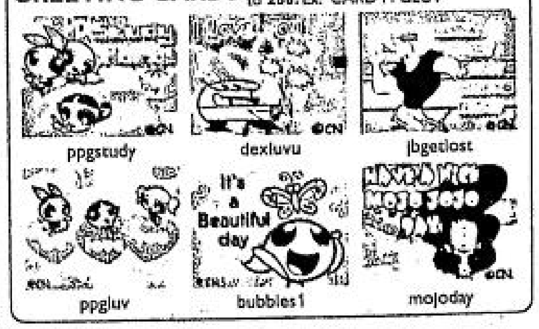
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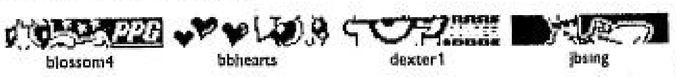
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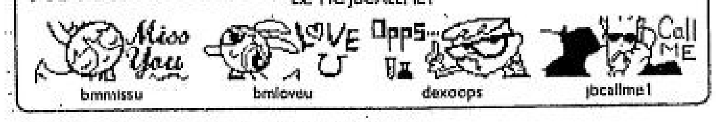

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Repotting plants with care

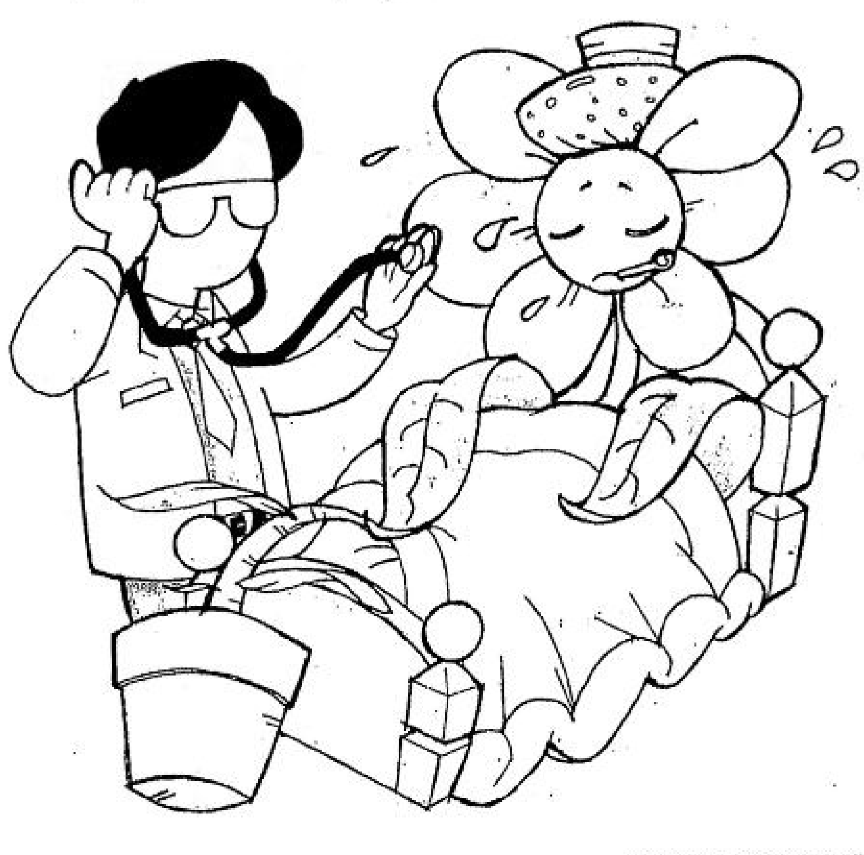

ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY MISTADES

By Serapion S. Metilla
Contributor

GREEN TIPS

WHEN you pot, repot or transfer plants from the original container to another, immediately give first aid.

As with human beings, if the leg, arm or any part of the body is cut, you have to stop the bleeding, apply medicine and let the person rest.

So is it with plants when you do repotting, most especially if the roots and/or branches are pruned. In other words, you have to treat plants like human beings.

For example, in repotting a rootbound plant, you have to cut about 50 percent of the old roots, discard the old soil and prune some of the branches. You have to do this late in the afternoon or when transpiration is low.

Use sharp and sanitized cutting tools. See to it that when you prune, it should be clean-cut. Clean-cut wounds will promote fast healing, otherwise the wounds may easily get infected. Then apply anti-shock treatment by soaking the rooted portion in a pail of water with rooting hormone such as hormex (Vitamin B-1 Thiamine hydrochloride) or ANAA (Napthalene acetic acid) for about 20 minutes before potting it back to the same container or another one bigger in size.

Hormex and ANAA, by the way, consist of vitamin hormone concentrates intended for plants with root growth stimulant. Use fresh potting mix consisting of one part garden soil, one part river sand, one part coco coir dust and one part rotted rice hull.

After potting and watering, wrap the plant and pot with transparent plastic bag. The idea is to prevent rapid evaporation of moisture. Loss of moisture, as in loss of blood, can cause shock if not death. Place your newly poked plant in an ICU (Intensive Care Unit).

An effective intensive care unit, should have the following:

1) A secluded area out of reach of children and stray animals. It is believed that the noise caused by children dribbling basketball and animals running around can cause shock to plants.

2) Excellent sandy conditions—free of rubbish and other forms of pollution. Use clean water.

3) A shady location with indirect sunlight, but not dark.

4) Fine circulation of air but not windy.

5) Warm temperature with humidity. The presence of moisture in the air and when you easily perspire shows high humidity.

6) Constantly moist but not wet area. If the area is dripping wet, fungus and other plant diseases may develop.

7) The necessary equipment like sprayers, tools and other facilities.

After about two to three weeks, or when new buds appear having four to six leaves, you may now transfer the plant to a partially sunny location, where sunlight is available only in the morning from 7 a.m.-12 noon.

Don't fail to water the plant daily, preferably in the morning. After about one month, move the plant again to full sunlight situation.

Call 9394593.

Ikebana show Feb.25-27

THE IKEBANA International Manila Chapter 108 will hold its 38th Annual show Feb. 25-27 at the 2/F Grand Atrium of Shangri-La Plaza Mall, corner Edsa and Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City. Overall show chair Nonette Hubilla and club president Celia Guevarra Lazaro said theme of the show was "Celebrating Friendship through Flowers."

The show is open 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Admission is free.

Participants represent the Ikenobo, Sogetsu, Ohara, Ryusei-Ha and Chiko Schools. Also invited to join are the provincial Ikebana chapters of Cebu, Cagayan de Oro and Davao.

Japanese Ambassador's wife Madam Noriko Yamazaki, architect-sculptor Ramon Orlina, Shangri-La Plaza executive vice president Lala Fojas, Ikebana Club president Celia Guevarra Lazaro and overall show chair

Hubilla will formally open the exhibit with the lighting of the traditional *sulo*.

Lecture-demonstrations will be conducted by Emy Dimayuga, Sogetsu School, 2-3:30 p.m., and Serapion S. Metilla, Ikenobo School, 4-6 p.m. on Feb. 26; Liling Nuguid, Ikenobo School, 2:30 p.m., Vangie Cheng, Sogetsu School, 3-4:30 p.m., and Rose Laurel Avancena, Joyce Kato and Kazuko Zenarosa, Ohara School, 5-6:30 p.m. on Feb. 27.

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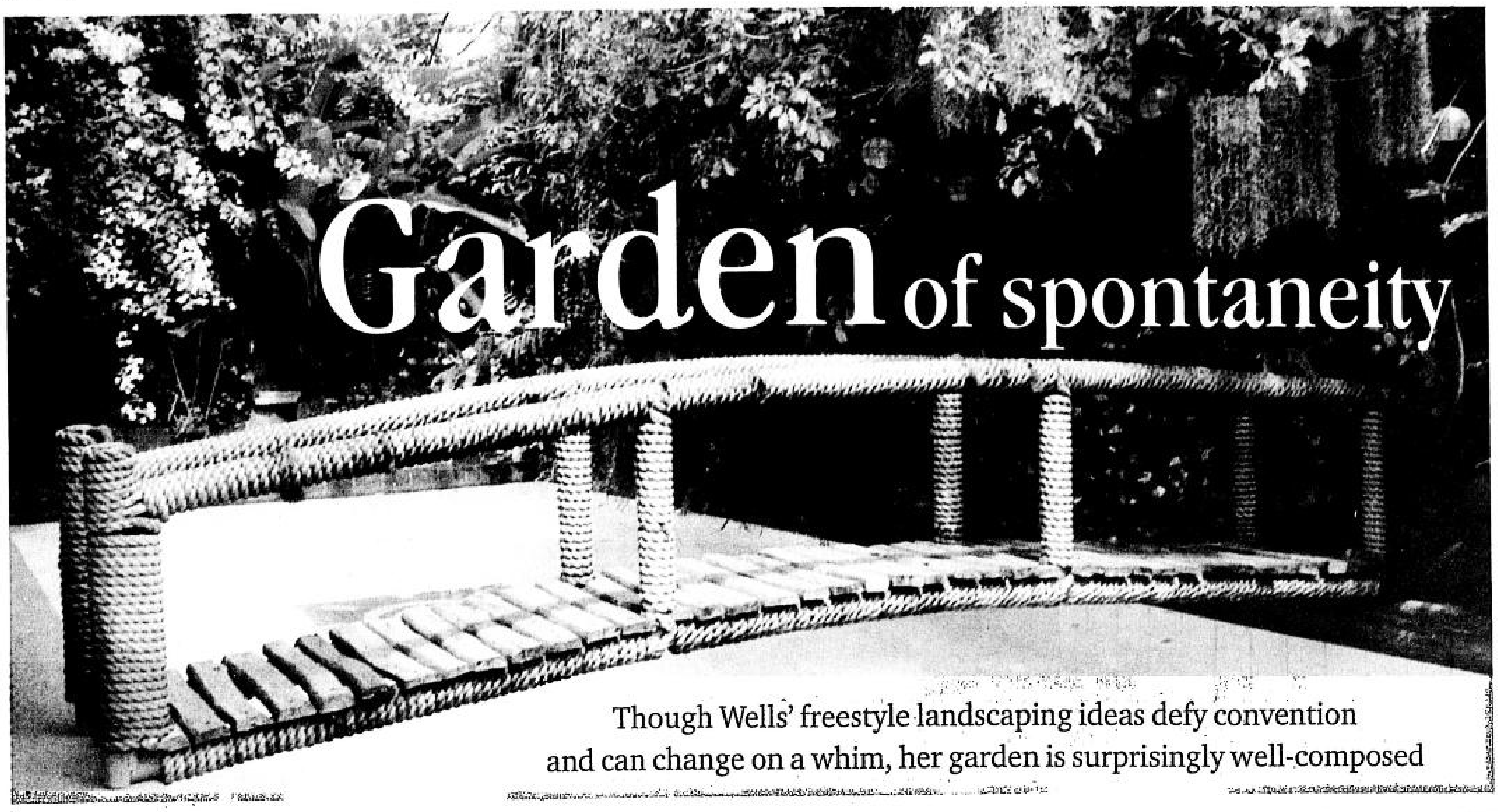
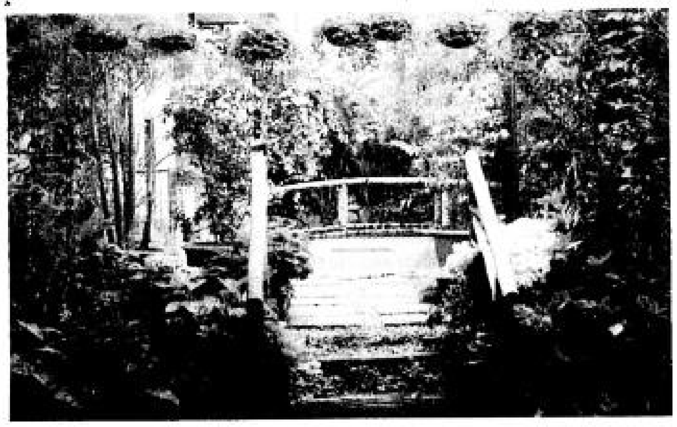
Garden of spontaneity

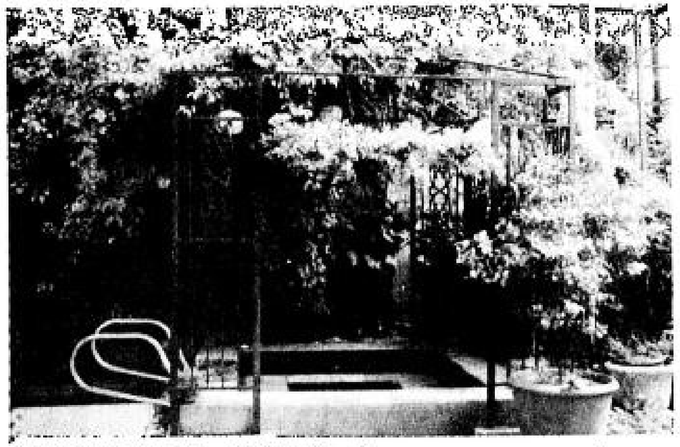


Though Wells' freestyle landscaping ideas defy convention and can change on a whim, her garden is surprisingly well-composed

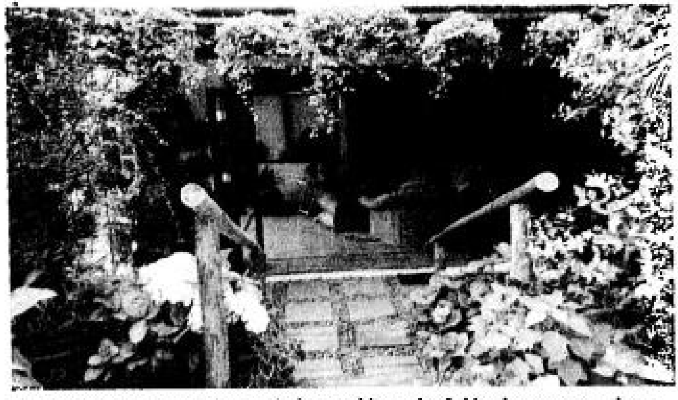
HYDRANGEA bower is the favorite spot of Sally Wells and her pet Shih Tzus.



ODD assortment of plants fill every inch of space in the swimming-pool garden.



BOUGAINVILLEAS and White Angels



ENTRANCE to guesthouse is framed by colorful hydrangeas, coleus, poinsettias and Creeping Charleys.

PLANTS around an old well are marigolds, horsetails and bachelor's buttons.

Text by Tita V. Giron
Photos by Mandy Navasero

SALLY Wells is better off without a landscaper, the way she changes her plants like a clotheshorse changes dresses. She will likely drive a landscaper crazy with the endless plants she brings to her garden, not to mention her freestyle landscaping ideas that defy convention and can change on a whim.

Despite her disregard for landscaping rules, her garden is surprisingly well-composed. Favorite trees have their own sections. Lush pocket gardens showcase flowering plants and ornamentals.

"I don't have any blueprint or landscaping design for my garden. I just love gardening to a fault and will feel lost if I didn't have a garden around me with lots of flowers and greenery," says Wells.

A leisurely walk around her garden showed the stunning results her love has produced. It was like viewing several landscaped exhibits in a garden show. But while garden show displays looked mostly stiff and formal, Wells' gardens were more relaxed and natural.

She has actually several gardens, developed one after the other as she acquired lots adjacent to her first property. She started with the front and back yards where the gardens had obviously ran out of space.

Flowering plants were everywhere, as were colorful ornamentals bought from practically every plants shop in town.

The more exciting species were around the swimming pool where every inch of space was filled with showy plants. There were heliconias, bromeliads, aglaonemas, ferns, diefenbachias and dracaenas.

"This is where I bond with my dogs for about an hour after sunrise when the mist is still in the garden," explained Wells as she sat on the mossy stone steps with her five spiffy Shih Tzus. The stone steps were flanked by flowering White Angels and floriferous hydrangeas.

To the left of the garden path were additional two lots that used to be empty but are now starting to fill up with garden plants. "We had to build walls around the gardens to keep away curious onlookers and neighborhood dogs," she explained.

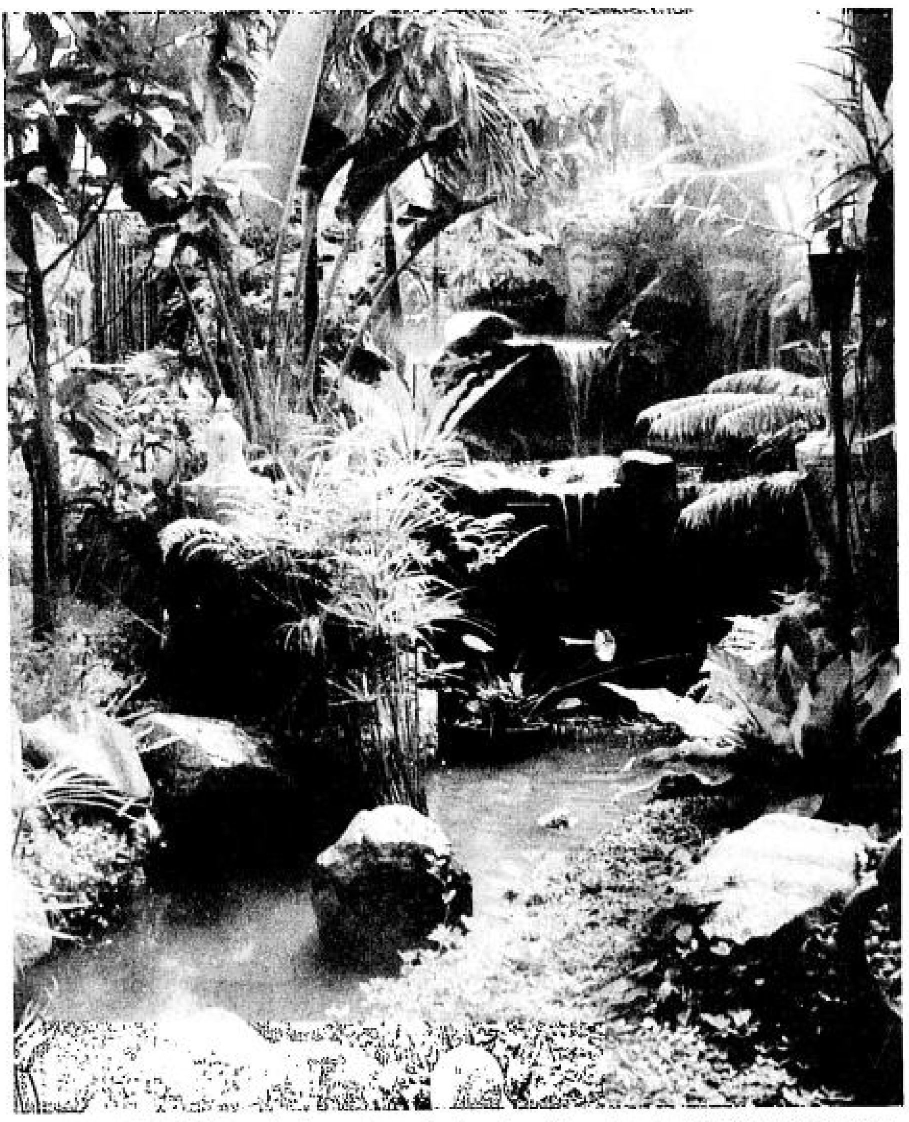
The plantings are relatively young in the new gardens. Along the path were chrysanthemums and celosias or cockscomb plants with their bright-colored flowers. And everywhere there were flowering vines, shrubs and ground cover.

Beyond the waterfall garden were 11 young ylang-ylang and five older champaca trees. "They're my favorite trees. I can hardly wait for all of them to start blooming," she admitted.

"My new interest is water gardening," Wells revealed as we reached her waterfall garden where the sight and sound of the waterfall were stunning. Water trailed over the moss-covered boulders to the mini-pond where nymphae plants floated. Various ferns and moisture-loving ornamentals peeked from the rocks.

Musical sounds of chimes and the chatter of birds complete the special effects in Wells' garden. "I look forward each day to sundown, my favorite time when I can sit among my plants and enjoy the peace and serenity of the garden. It is so quiet here that I can almost hear the plants grow," she said.

She excitedly announced she was going the next day to the Manila Seedling Bank. Undoubtedly the trip will mean new plants for her garden.



BALINESE-INSPIRED garden has gadgets that create mists and waterfalls (above). Hanging Spanish moss and blooming heliconias draw attention to rope bridge (top).

BOSTON ferns thrive under artificial light of the guestroom.

Tree-cutting issue should be resolved on case-to-case basis

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

AFTER THE DEVASTATING floods in our provinces in Southern Luzon and the tsunami in South Asia, people's thoughts have turned to the causes of floods and how to prevent them. There seems to be a long-overdue awareness that indiscriminate cutting of trees is one major reason for such disasters.

An offshoot of this awareness is the list of names of illegal loggers revealed by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago early this February. Her list raises new questions, like, why are most of those names Chinese?

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor goes a step further: He has charged some individuals and corporations for illegal logging operations. Again, the names he names had a Chinese ring to them.

The investigations are welcome. They may answer why, if those involved are indeed Chinese, so many of them are engaged in the same business. Are they fronts for others? The questions can go on.

Big no-no

While for the most part, tree-cutting is a mortal sin to environmentalists, there will always be the need to do it. Cutting down trees in natural forests is, of course, the big no-no for, as the government is fast finding out, it is the reason soil is eroded and whole areas get flooded. And, in the case of the pile of lumber stored up in one logged area, heavy rains pushed the logs down, causing an avalanche and destroying lives and property in their path.

The way things are going, however, it seems the reasons for not cutting trees far outnumber those for doing it. This must be taken into account in the wake of the new awareness of logging and tree-cutting violations.

One particular case brought to our attention involved a solitary tree that had become the bone of contention between some protestors and the University of the Philippines-Los Baños administration. The UPLB administration said the tree, after a strong typhoon, was leaning dangerously, threatening to fall on innocent passersby.

Roots were also found to be infested with fungi and rot was setting in. Protestors contradicted those findings, accusing the foresters and administration of lack of expertise, etc.

Different agenda?

What shows up in those reactions is the readiness to attach guilt to the tree-cutting announcement. If the tree should not be cut, then it must be proven so without ill will. The energy and time spent in that one tree-cutting instance, whose justification was there for everyone to see, revealed that the protesting group had some other agenda behind their so-called ecological stand.

There is a difference between this case and that of, say the mango tree in a church courtyard in Quezon City. That tree, we are told, need not have been cut but, as it was in a private property, there was little that could be done to save it.

Another case comes to mind, the one on Panay Avenue, QC, that has yet to be resolved. The city government has ordered trees along the sidewalks to be cut in order to widen the street. By widening it, the street value, changes from residential to commercial.

Some residents protested but, as they are in the minority, the project goes on. Incidentally, some protestors in this case were stoned and jailed for protesting. In Parañaque City, trees along the sidewalks on Naia Road were reportedly cut to make way for a parking lot.

A closer look

Now Los Baños, Quezon City and Parañaque City may be poles apart but, like many other places in the country, they share the same dilemma: to cut or not to cut trees? It is obvious that with so many tree-cutting incidents that seem to benefit only a few, there is a need to look into them more closely.

Who is to look into them? Why the people affected, of course, but mostly the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and its local offices. If this is to remain a free country, then local governments should be more sensitive to what people want and not act like bullies imposing their will on the people.

Trees are essential to people's health, for shade and many other reasons. Their value must always be weighed against the reasons for cutting them.

That's why tree-cutting incidents should be looked into on a case-to-case basis. They cannot be judged in the same way, for each case requires different handling. And, in the end, the reason or reasons for cutting them would be the determining factors.

If these smaller tree-cutting incidents can be resolved fairly and to everyone's satisfaction, it may lead to better chances of doing the same with the bigger illegal logging issues.

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com

Pangbenga garden show features plant arts

PLANT expert Serapion Metilla will demonstrate bonsai, the art of dwarfing trees, and Ikebana, the art of Japanese classical flower arrangement at Baguio's ongoing Panagbenga Festival, 2 p.m., March 3, at the Carnival grounds (between the Orchidarium and Children's playground) Burnham Park, Baguio City.

Metilla will also show how to make a mini waterfall Zen garden.

A minimum entrance fee is charged for the garden show but the demonstrations are free to show visitors.

Flower arrangement competitions will be held 8 a.m.-12 noon for amateurs and 3-6 p.m. for professionals on March 4. Call 0921-6917098.

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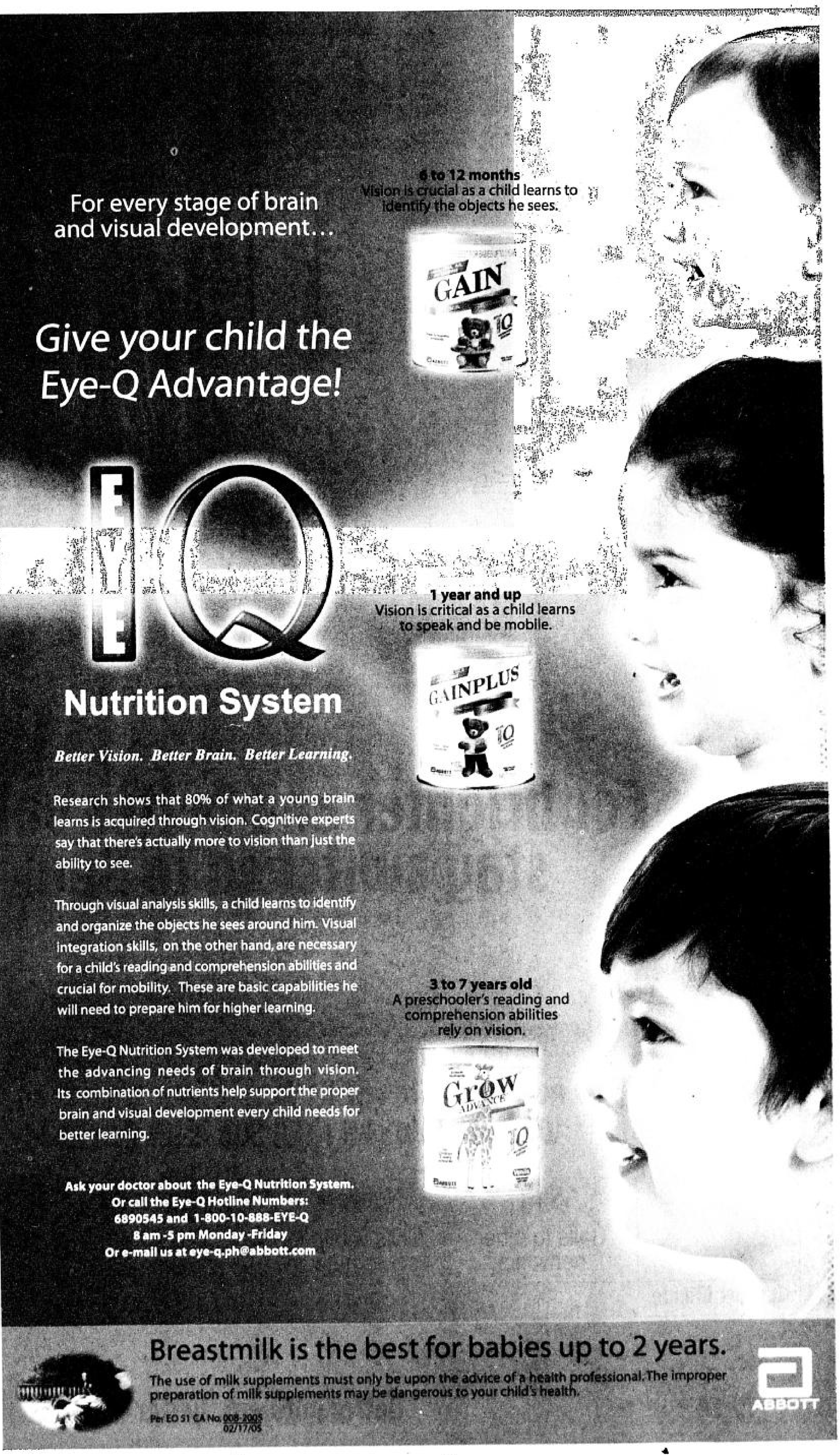

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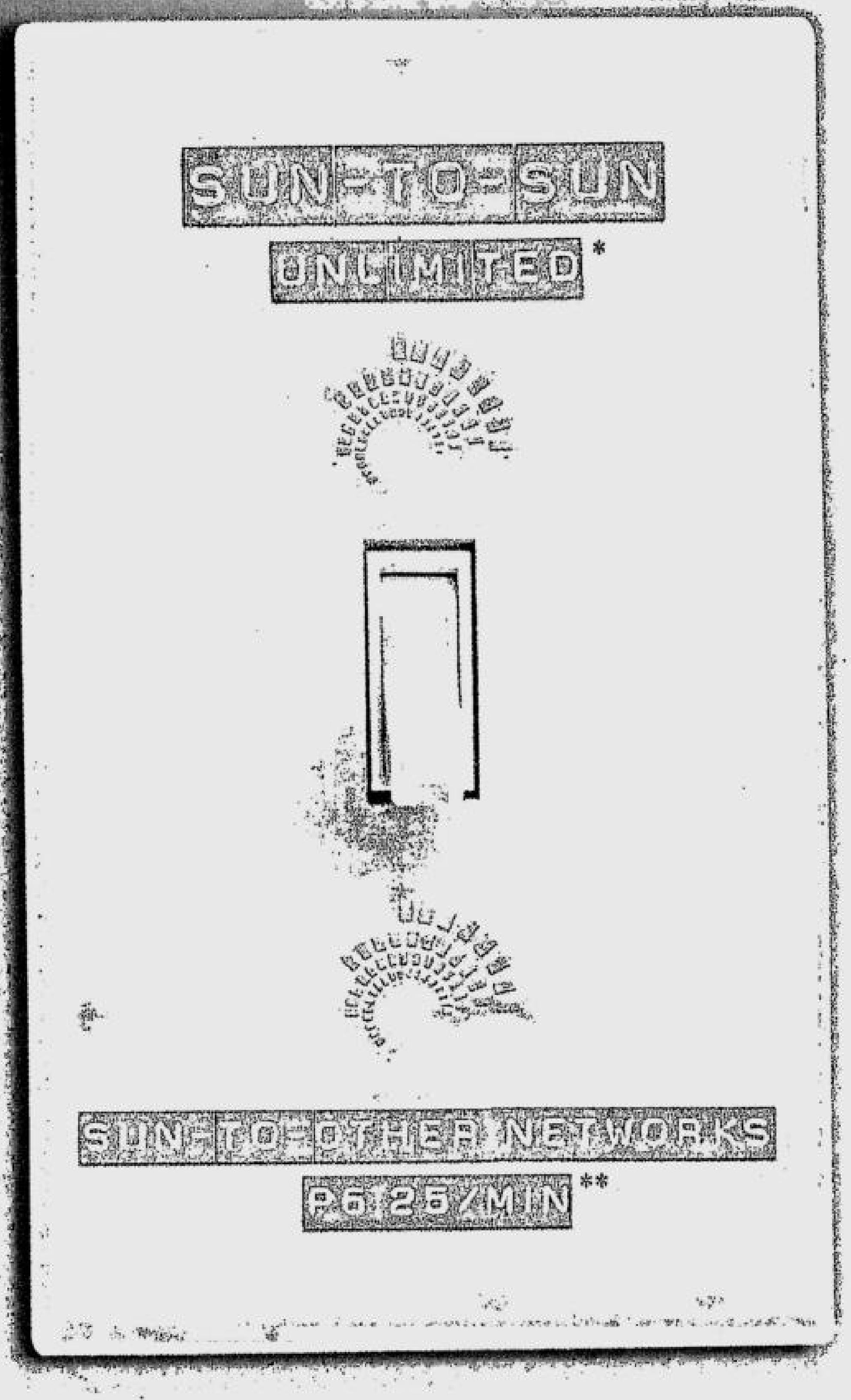
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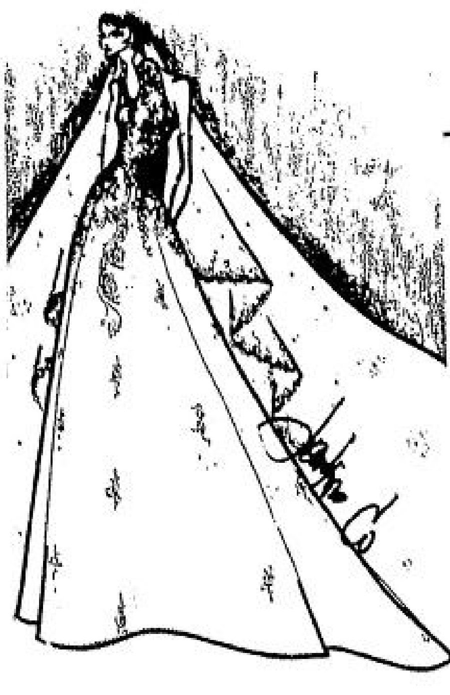


LIM-TAN

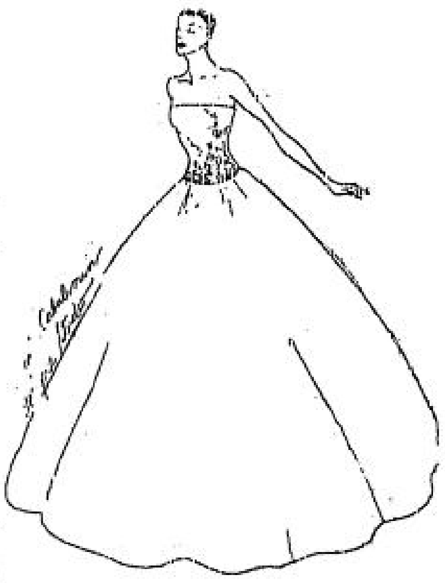
Caroline Tan, daughter of **Francisca Tan**, will exchange vows with **Jerry Lim**, son of **Julie** and **Juanito Lim** on Feb. 26 at Christian Bible Church of the Philippine.

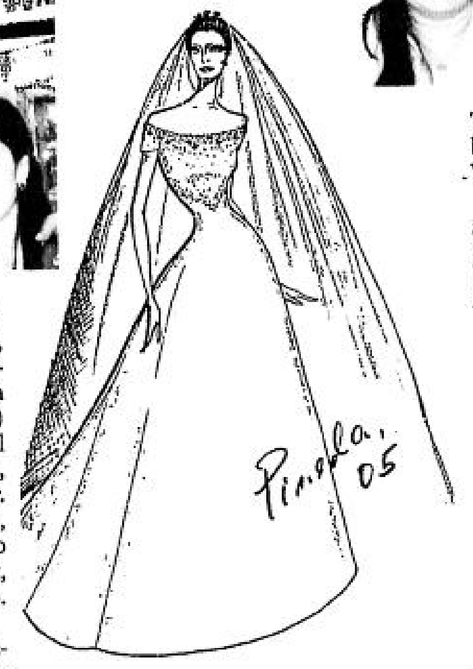
The bride will wear an ecru duchess sateen, semi-haltered with a detachable cathedral train. It has a fully beaded bodice in cascading floral and vines design with crystal, nakar and swarovski transmission-v stones, design by **Leonard Co.**

MACASIEB DEBUT

Ma. Paola Bianca Macasieb, daughter of **Ismael** and **Malou Macasieb** will celebrate her 18th birthday on Manila Diamond Hotel, Roxas Boulevard Manila on Feb. 26.

Pao is a first year BS Biology student of UST. She will wear a gown designed by **Dennis Cabalinan.**





ALAAN-HILADO

Joyce Hilado, daughter of **Jesus Hilado** and **Cynthia Manzano** (deceased) exchanged marital vows with **Jing Alaan**, son of **Abelardo Jr.** and **Corminda Alaan**, at the Iglesia ni Cristo Church in Roosevelt, Quezon City last Feb. 18.

Eric Pineda designed the bride's gown in ivory silk satin. The off-shoulder bodice is embellished with caviar beads, iridescent pailletes and rhinestones. A 7-m veil of double width illusion tulle held by swarovski crystal pins adorned her hair. The gowns of the female entourage were designed by **Pepsi Herrera** in lavender and blush pink chiffon. The event was styled and coordinated by **Anjoy Hipolito** and **Jessie Orozco.** Flowers by **Cris de Guzman.**

ROASA-CASTILLO

Carlo Alvin Roasa, son of **Ben Hur** and **Mila Hizon Roasa** will marry **Ma. Romina**, daughter of **Leon Jr.** and **Teresita Castiollo**, on March 13 at the Chapel of Transfiguration Caleruega, Batulao, Nasugbu, Batangas. Reception will follow at Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City.

The bride will wear an off-shoulder Ecru gown with beaded details at the back. The entourage will wear gowns in canary yellow, lavender and magenta motif designed by **Aureo Alonzo.**

Trends, forecasts in wedding fair

THE WESTIN Philippine Plaza presents "Weddings at Westin" on Feb. 27 at the Harbor Garden.

Know the latest trends, fashion forecasts and motifs. The fair will feature table setups, floral designs, cakes, giveaways, invitations and decorations to help plan their own wedding.

Highlight of the event is a bridal fashion show, "Styles and Traditions," featuring the creations of Njork, Dennis Lustico, Patrice Ramos-Diaz and Kate Torralba. Other features are "Sweet Dreams, A Lingerie and Sleepwear Fashion Show" by Maidenform, and "A Romance with Pearls, A Fashion Accessories Show" by Jewelmer.

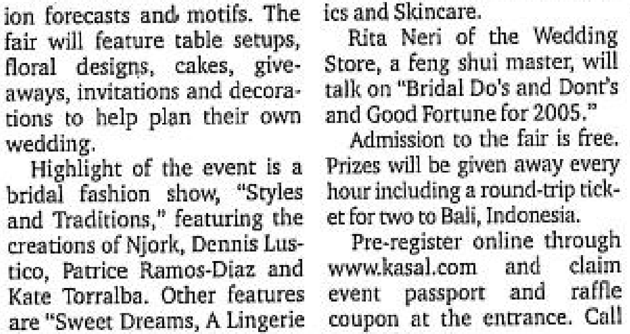
The event starts with an opening toast followed by "Glamorous Brides, Stylish Grooms," a makeover session with weight-loss expert Dr. Joel Mendez and beauty specialist Kinny Salas. It will feature Elizabeth Arden Cosmetics and Skincare.

Rita Neri of the Wedding Store, a feng shui master, will talk on "Bridal Do's and Dont's and Good Fortune for 2005."

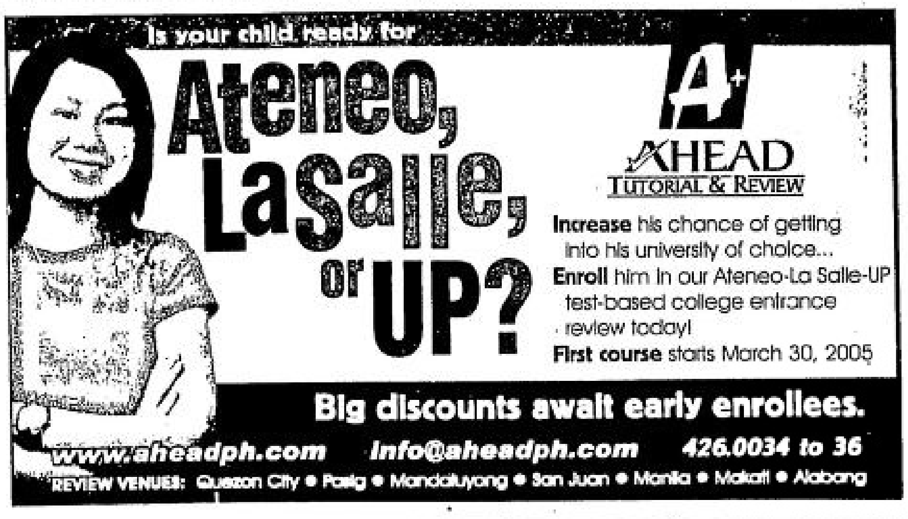
Admission to the fair is free. Prizes will be given away every hour including a round-trip ticket for two to Bali, Indonesia.

Pre-register online through www.kasal.com and claim event passport and raffle coupon at the entrance. Call 8326999.

The event is in partnership with Saga Events, Jewelmer, Elizabeth Arden, Maidenform, Nestle Pink Lemonade, Kasal.com and media partners PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER and Joey 92.3.



THE WESTIN Philippine Plaza Grand Plaza Ballroom



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HOT, hot namedroppables include (last row, standing) lawyer Eleazar Reyes, Dr. Wang Ha-Cho, Turkish Ambassador Tanju Sumer and wife, Artemis Sumer, and Cito Beltran; (second row, standing) Susana Vasquez, Justice Remedios Fernando, Carmelita Samson, Gov. Bellaflor Castillo, Cristina Ponce Enrile, Gen. Efren Abu, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Gen. Angel Kanapi and lawyer Reynaldo Guiyab; (seated) Sen. Luisa Ejercito, Senar Cetin, the newlyweds, Edna Camcam and Imelda Marcos

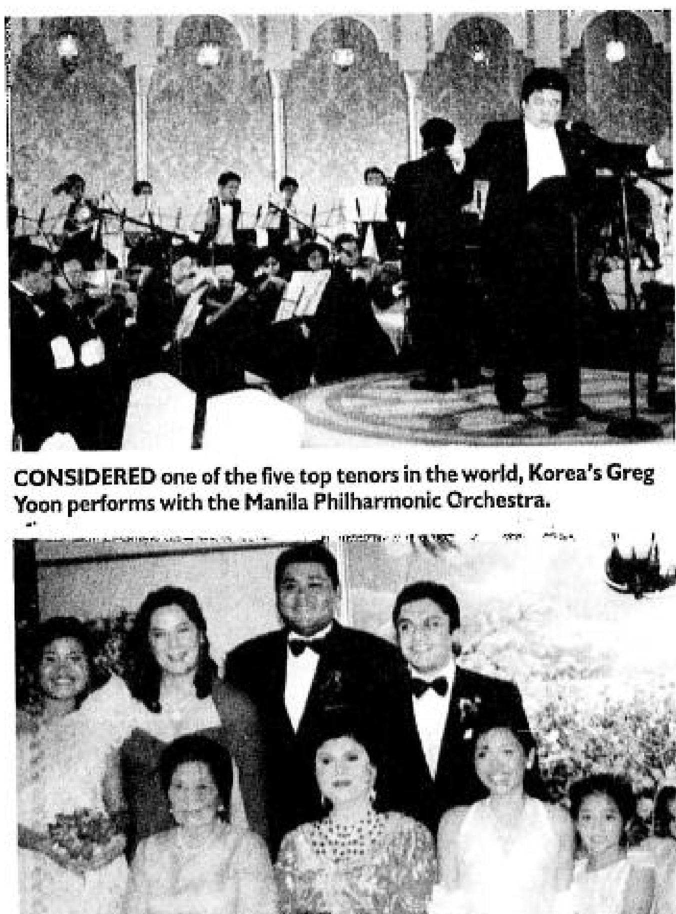
CETIN-CAMCAM NUPTIALS

Color them love

Text by Maurice Arcache
Photos by Alex Van Hagen

YOUNG, hip international achievers: (Standing) Jennifer, Erkan Cetin, Damien Kielly and Serkan Cetin; Artemis Sumer, Senar Cetin, Cristiana and Josie

DIPLO SET. (Seated) Belize's Consul Helen Ong, Consul of Monaco Fortune Ledesma and Gul Tanghe; Dr. Luciano Ong and Belgian Ambassador Christian Tanghe



CONSIDERED one of the five top tenors in the world, Korea's Greg Yoon performs with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra.

FROM THE VERY beginning, *palanggas*, this once-in-a-lifetime happening suggested rarity and non-tradition—an eye-catching Filipina beauty marrying a handsome Turk *apres* falling in love with each other in London.

Influenced by both East and West in their attitudes toward life, the couple not surprisingly insisted on making the staging of the grand event unique.

Vivaciously adorable, low-profile socialite **Edna Camcam**, with the bride-to-be, her daughter **Cristiana** (or **Aian**), plus overall artistic director for the event, **Freddie Santos**, also made this event a cyberspace happening as the two familles bombarded each other with e-mail for weeks on end to make sure the production happened without a hitch.

The chosen color motif was bright, bringing bold colors from the famous spice markets of Turkey to blend in with Aian's own inspiration—vibrant shades of red, orange, fuchsia and gold against a background of her husband's beloved Mediterranean blue.

Although Aian wanted a minimalist wedding using only colors as highlights, her mother wanted a more extravagant interpretation of the same theme.

Design team

The design team, *palanggas*, was composed of **Gino Gonzalez** (set), **Monino Duque** (lights), **Toni Parsons** (flowers), and **Pido Villanueva** (foyer arrangement). They did a fab layout that allowed the wedding and the reception to be held at the same place.

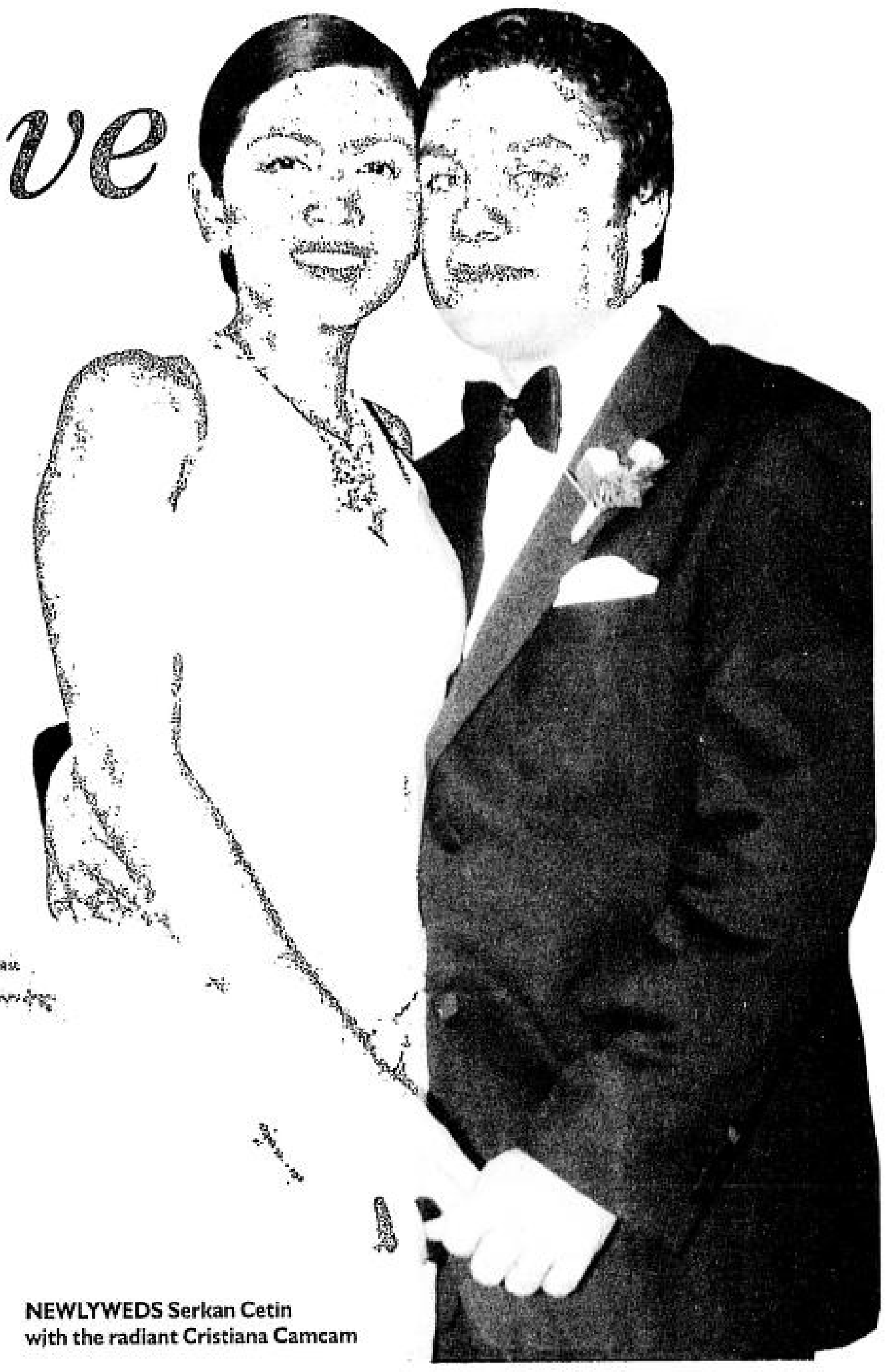
The key here was the establishment of a central temple inspired by the magnificent Blue Mosque. This in turn inspired the design motif used by **Noky Dungo** on the invitations, and which was eventually reflected in the walls of the set.

To clearly symbolize the coming together of two worlds, Freddie insisted on having two separate ramps that led toward the temple, with the bride and groom coming from either side and meeting in the middle.

As an added twist, Gino hung spectacular miniature chandeliers of varying lengths, fashioned by Swarovski, to form a floating temple of crystal, under which the vows were held.

Now, dig this, *palanggas*, within the pillars was the renowned Manila Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Maestro **Rodel Colmenar**, no less. The orchestra thrilled the chi-chi invitees the entire evening.

The sight of the principal sponsors coming down on opposite aisles, pair by pair with the women garbed in individually designed masterpieces by the king of Asia fashion himself, **Pitoy Moreno**, was a sight I've never seen in a wedding. Wow!



NEWLYWEDS Serkan Cetin with the radiant Cristiana Camcam

Filipina beauty weds Turkish gentleman in lavish, rainbow-hued ceremonies

Most of the men were in elegant tuxedoes made for them expressly by Bergamo, while the dashing groom, **Serkan Cetin**, was in a Hugo Boss.

Perfect prelude

All the dazzling colors became the perfect prelude to the arrival of the radiant bride, who was dressed in one of Pitoy's most beautiful bridal creations. The white and silver bridal gown looked perfect on Aian's model figure. Huge sleeves touched the ground and the train was a sight to behold. The gown was topped by an eye-boggling necklace that gave a glow of love to Aian's face.

The ageless hymn, "It Is Well With My Soul," one of Edna's super favorites, served as the wedding march. This hymn was sung by the great Korean tenor **Greg Yoon**, one of only five dramatic tenors in the world.

A very active Christian in his own church in Korea, Greg was only too happy to sing not just sacred songs for the wedding, but also a stunning repertoire of love songs in English, Korean and Tagalog during the reception.

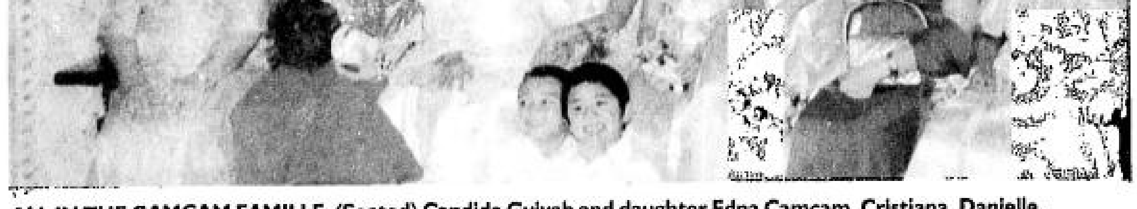
Upon Edna's insistence, the Philippines was also musically represented by the fabulous voice of **Raymond Lauchengco**.

The menu, coordinated and supervised by super gourmet **Nicky Camcam**, the bride's brother, was superbly prepared by the excellent chefs of Makati Shangri-La.

The jaw-dropping multi-tiered wedding cake by **Heny Sison** was done in the brightest colors imaginable. Just as radical were Toni Parsons' breathtaking flower arrangements.

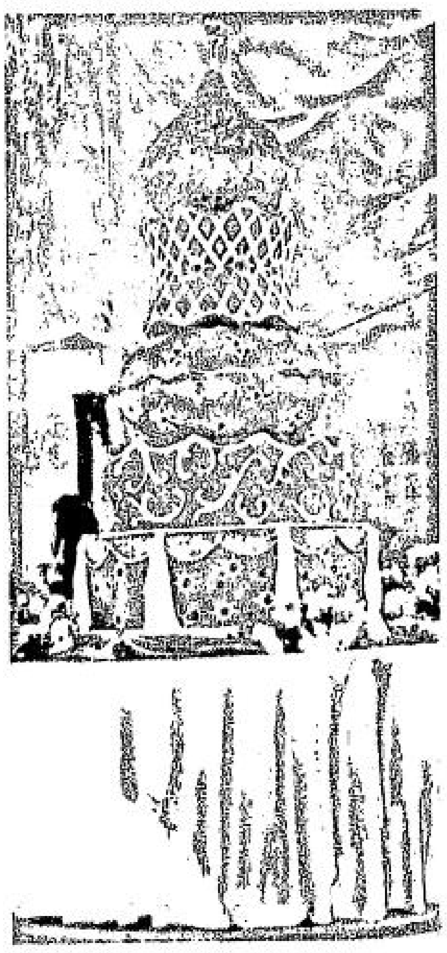
By all accounts, *palanggas*, this magnificent wedding could have easily been a royal one. It's clearly the beginning of a brave, bold new life for the beautiful couple.

Cheers, *palanggas*!



ALL IN THE CAMCAM FAMILLE. (Seated) Candida Guiyab and daughter Edna Camcam, Cristiana, Danielle, Alessandra, Emmanuelle, Kourtney, Raphaelle, Noah and Mikhael; Cristine, Marivi, Nicolas, the groom, Jun C., and Christopher

MANGO owner Feridun Tekel with the fashion czar of Asia, Pitoy Moreno



THE EYE-CATCHING mosque-designed cake by pastry queen Heny Sison

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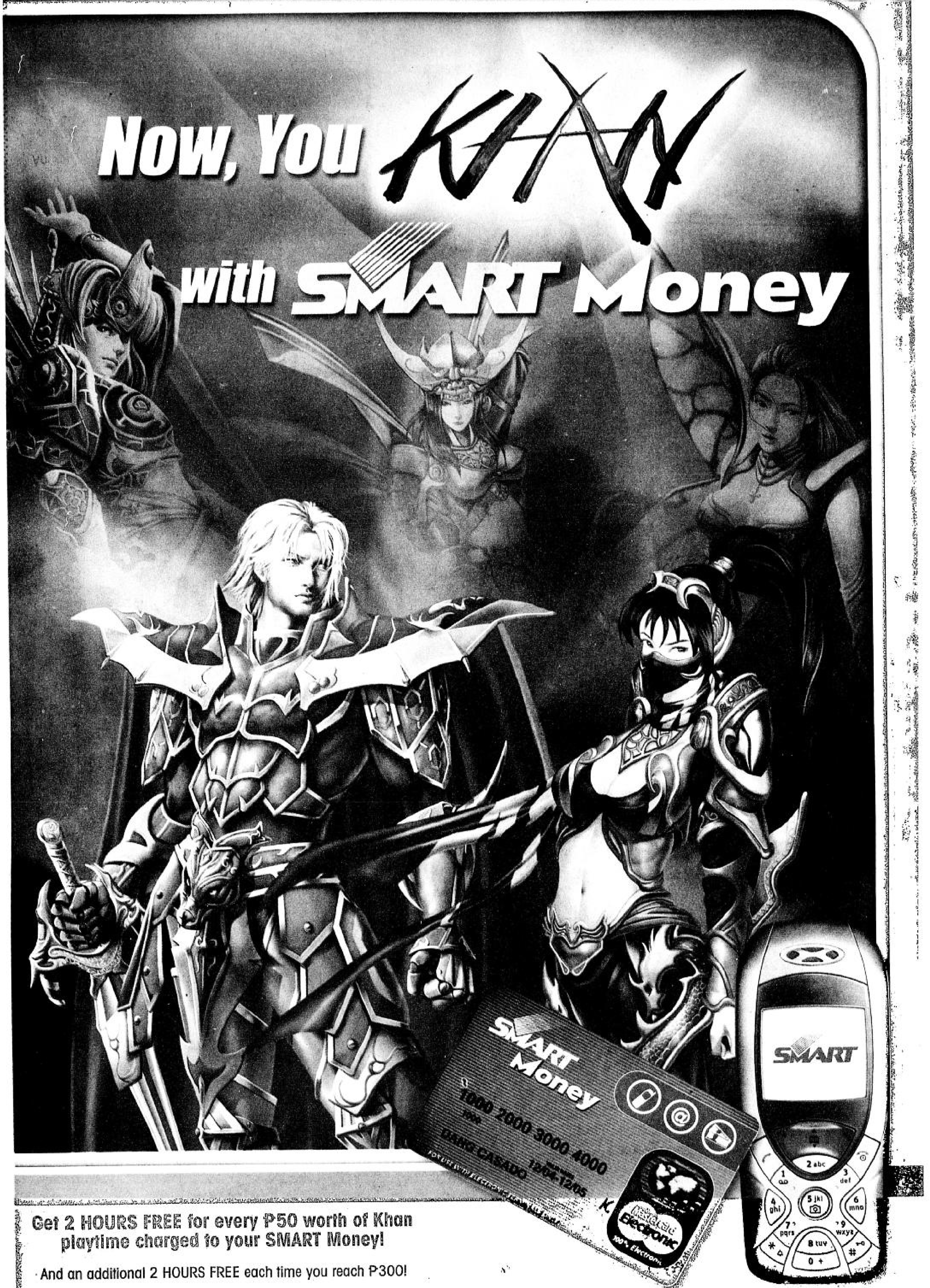
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SEA PRINCESS basks in the Chinese New Year /H2

Why humans are human

By Isagani Yambot
Publisher

Wisdom, subjectivity and responsibility are exclusive characteristics of human beings

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

DAVOS, Switzerland—What is it that makes human beings human?

Two scientists, a priest, a lawyer and a businessman tried to answer this question at a discussion session at the recently concluded annual meeting of the World Economic Forum but could not arrive at a definitive answer.

That such a question should be discussed at a meeting demonstrates the range and depth of the issues, problems and concerns brought up at the Forum.

Peter Sullivan, group editor in chief of the Independent Newspapers of South Africa and moderator of the discussion, suggested that one unique thing about humans was their ability to record history.

Christof Koch, professor of computation and neural systems at the California Institute of Technology, said what distinguished human beings from other animals was that they walked on two feet, got neurogenerative diseases (disorders related to nerve cell development) and had a consciousness that let them see, smell and feel pleasure and pain. He said they had self-consciousness.

"We can reflect on ourselves," Koch said. "We have the ability to introspect and make plans for the future."

Francis S. Collins, director of the United States National Human Genome Research Institute, who headed the team that decoded the human genome, said the entire set of DNA instructions passed on from parent to child had a total of 3.1 billion letters that made up the complex information for each human being.

Similar genetic structure

Other animals had the same number, whether they be slime, fish or chimpanzees, he said, implying that the genetic structure of humans was not really unique.

"I don't think genetics and molecular biology will explain what it means to be human," he said.

Collins asked: "What were the 'hobbits'—the 3-ft-tall people found [recently] in New Guinea? Were they human? They have apparently existed for thousands of years.

"What about a child born without a brain? There is a condition where the brain does not develop.

"What about clones—if later they can be produced—are they human?"

He said the question couldn't be answered by science. A better answer might be given by theology. "What makes us uniquely human is our knowledge of right and wrong," he said.

Hurst Hannum, professor of international law and co-director of the Center for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, said we should look at the moral and legal implications of being human.

Doing unto others

What is important is not how unique humans are but what they do to their fellow human beings.

Jiro Nemoto, honorary chair of the Nippon Yusen Kabushi Kaisha of Japan, said there was a universal concept of humanness that crossed cultures. He said the values to be sought were moral discipline, freedom, benevolence, compassion and harmony based on family and community values.

John M. Templeton Jr., president of a foundation named after him, said what made human beings unique were the complexity of human language and their capacity for abstract thought and qualitative analysis.

"Religion derived from abstract thought has been a unique element in what it means to be human," he said.

Looking at the bigger, cosmic picture, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin said, "There is an integrity in all of creation. Our destiny is to live in that context."

The question of who was human was a fundamental, ethical and political question, he said. He added that humans had to enhance their capacity to live life to the fullest.

Elderly have a future

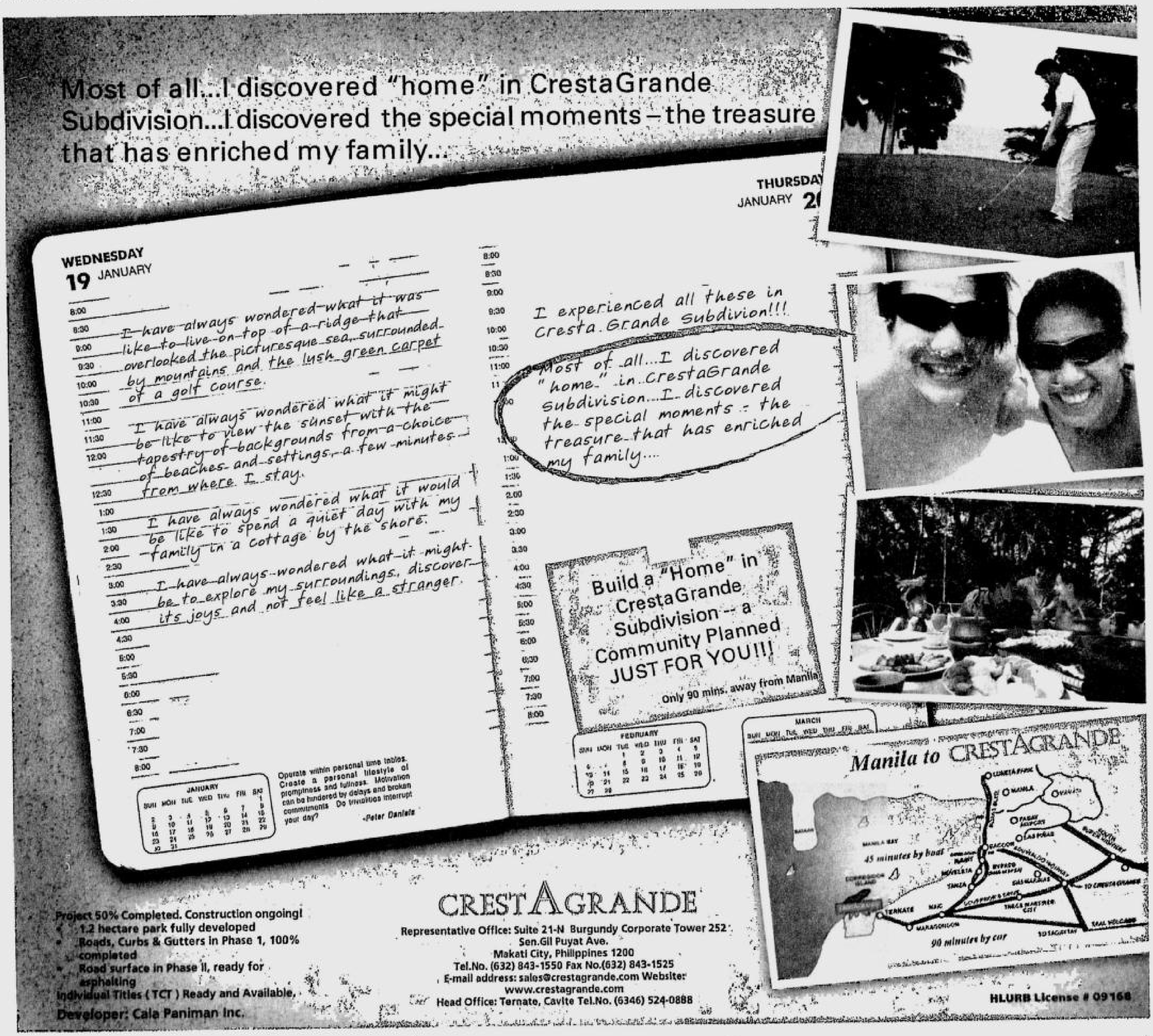
The problems of the aging should be addressed, he said, because the aging also had a future. He recalled an anecdote where an 89-year-old female patient asked her doctor, "Doctor, do I have a future?"

Quoting a passage from the Bible, "Blessed are the poor," Martin said poor people had shown extraordinary ability "just by being able to survive."

Wisdom, subjectivity and responsibility were exclusive characteristics of human beings, he said.

But, he added, responsibility was a double-edged sword, and human beings were capable of doing good and doing evil. Recalling the recent observance of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz (a concentration camp where tens of thousands of Jews were gassed to death), Martin said those who committed genocide were humans and asked, "How do we explain that people who can do good do evil?"

Discussion sessions at the 2005 annual meeting of the World Economic Forum were not limited to economic, political or social issues. They ranged over a wide spectrum of human interests and concerns. They included, for instance, such topics as "What is cool in Asia?," "Five science ideas to change the world," "Happiness," "Art Inc.," "The art of possibility," "The Blogopolis," "Dangerous ideas" and "Sex on the brain."


Most of all...I discovered "home" in CrestaGrande Subdivision...I discovered the special moments – the treasure that has enriched my family...

WEDNESDAY
19 JANUARY

I have always wondered what it was like to live on top of a ridge that overlooked the picturesque sea, surrounded by mountains and the lush green carpet of a golf course.

I have always wondered what it might be like to view the sunset with the tapestry of backgrounds from a choice of beaches and settings, a few minutes from where I stay.

I have always wondered what it would be like to spend a quiet day with my family in a cottage by the shore.

I have always wondered what it might be to explore my surroundings, discover its joys and not feel like a stranger.

Operate within personal time tables. Create a personal lifestyle of promptness and fullness. Motivation can be hindered by delays and broken commitments. Do trivialities interrupt your day?
-Peter Daniels

THURSDAY
JANUARY 2

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HSBC guests Ila and Ray Dempsey

PRETTY friends Missy Ayala and Maureen Santiago

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AMEX clients Gene and Lulu de los Reyes

LOVELY couple Lito and Kim Camacho

ESSENSA developer Hilda and Joey Antonio

COLORED-HAIR friends Junie Rodriguez and Max Chua

BAG lovers Archie Rodriguez and Bea Valdes

CHARMS & Crystals' Liza Bustamante and Leah Laylo

MASTER potters Hadrian Mendoza and Jon Pettyjohn

PINEAPPLE gang. Malu Gamboa, Anton Barretto, Angelette Calero, Sea Princess and Leah Puyat

Whooping it up on Chinese New Year

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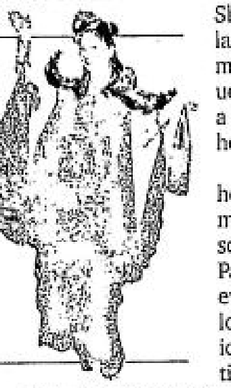


Tessa Prieto-Valdes

RAJO **Laurel** is my fairy god-designer. With a wave of his magic wand, he transforms me into various princesses. It's truly magic these days, as I move into various forms of expandable wear and oversize jackets that might best camouflage my growing, Athena-laden belly.

Higher headgear also has the double effect of making me look taller and lessens the effect of my weight gain, which is now at around 20 lbs. and counting. Considering my target is not to gain more than 30 lbs., I am reaching my limit, as I still have one last trimester to go.

But no matter, because Rajo transformed me into various kinds of Chinese princesses for a series of "Kung Hei Fat Choy" parties last week.

With all the Chinese New Year celebrations featuring at least 10-course menus ranging from suckling pig to braised scallops to E fu noodles to sweet dimsum pastries, any diet is sure to be shattered. As the text joke says, by the time you open your fortune cookie, all it says is "You have eaten too much."

It must have been such a dilemma for Chinese Catholics this year because the New Year coincided with Ash Wednesday, a day of fasting and abstinence. Good thing I am pregnant, which somehow exempts me from the traditional practice. Although I am not Chinese, my attitude is it never hurts to do any sort of auspicious ritual that might bring one good fortune. So if that means that a Rabbit must welcome the Year of the Rooster by eating a whole fish from head to tail or consuming something round like a tiny orange, I am definitely doing that.

HSBC gig

For this year's festivities, that venerable, "traditional Chinese bank," HSBC, hosted an imperial dinner jointly with the Asia Society at the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. (It might be a British bank to you, but from the clientele list, I would call it traditional Chinese!)

The evening's entertainment, hosted by **Freddie Santos**, was inspired by one of China's most memorable eras, the Song Dynasty. At least that's what I think because the performers were all singers! The repertoire was mostly Broadway musical numbers, with a dash of Chinese flavor provided by the Steps Dance School. While this was not exactly authentic Chinese, I think the audience was relieved because a night of Chinese opera would not have gone over as well.

While the show was going on, I was drawn to the ballroom entrance with Chinese set stalls selling bags by **Bea Valdes**, fine wares from the Pettyjohn-Mendoza Pottery School, exotic teas from Struans & Tang and gems and accessories. My HSBC Red Card got a lot of exercise that night as it was passed from one stall to the other. I could not resist Bea's bejeweled creations and the bracelets from Charms & Crystals.

For those like me who are born in the Year of the Rabbit, our lucky charm is the rat, our lucky shape the triangle and our lucky colors beige, yellow and earthy tones. The unique, lucky animal charm bracelets I bought are carriers of heavenly blessings and good fortune. Again, even if I am not Chinese, wearing this won't hurt and it doubles up as a cute accessory too.

The owner, **Liza Bustamante**, told me that my very successful, celebrity friend, **Kris Aquino**, has been using a pink quartz bracelet that has been lucky for her. Well, I have known Kris for many years now and she really has been doing so well lately. But I'd say it's from a lot of hard work and not really the bracelet. She turned a year older last Valentine's Day and my wish for her is continued good fortune and that a Prince Charming somehow finds his way to her.

HSBC's Public Affairs head **Laine Santana** sent me a pretty Silk Cocoon scarf and some delicious Pazzo ice cream after the event. Too bad I am not allowed to even smell the ice cream. I have gestational diabetes, a condition brought on during my pregnancy only. Strange but all this time I thought fat-free and sugar-free meant the same thing. Apparently not! So now even my fruit intake is measured. Now I know how Mr. Energy **Gary Valenciano** feels, although in a far less complex way.

Amex thing

Seven days after the Chinese New Year, the traditional Chinese celebrate everyone's birthdays. I guess that is sort of their version of the Feast of the Three Kings. It was also the evening that another "traditional Chinese bank," American Express, celebrated its Spring Festival in Old Shanghai with a sumptuous dinner also at the Shangri-La. (Once again, just a look around the ballroom and I can hardly believe it's an American bank, despite the name!)

Amex's dinner featured free Feng Shui destiny chart consultations with Prof. **Charlie Chao** and a hilarious performance by comedian **Nannette Inventor**. Though I was tempted to hear what Prof. Chao might have to say, I chickened out and just relied on my bracelet for continuous luck.

If luck is not in your favor, you can always request for it. At the annual PineApple Lucky Party, guests are given one chance to pick discount coupons. I had my daughter **Annika** choose an egg from the wooden jar. After several attempts to get me one with more than 20%, she finally found one marked 30%. It pays to be close friends with the owners so that they don't mind the *tambiolo* too closely! Well, with a bigger discount, I always end up shopping a bit more anyway!

Another Chinese-inspired celebration was the opening of Rustan's at Gateway, Cubao. They had a traditional lion and dragon dance with cocktails and a fashion show. Though I missed the event, I will soon head to the Gateway Mall with its stunning design and enormous wonderful shops. I am glad that there is a new shopping destination in this country, a clear sign of progress and businessmen's faith in our country in spite of the terror being sown by the Abu Sayyaf.

From the party at PineApple, I donned my final Chinese outfit of the season, and then hurried off to watch the movie "Phantom of the Opera" with Rajo and the rest of our African safari gang. The spectacular costumes and set design make this a must-see film.

The entire Chinese New Year lasted a whole week for me, thanks to great banks, great stores and a great costumer. So much to be thankful for! Kung Hei Fat Choy indeed!

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

The joke goes that with all the eating going around, when you open your fortune cookie, it says, 'You have eaten too much'

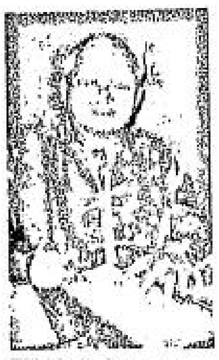
FAMILY bankers Paz Tanjangco, Tissa Tan and Marisun Uichico

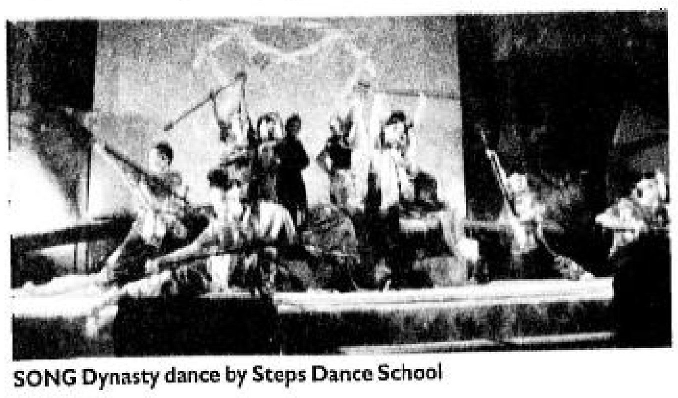
TOP executives Jimmy Ayala, Irene Francisco and Martin Cook

TATLER's Anton San Diego with Ollie and Butch Campos

IMPORTANT clients Buboy Virata, Marixi Prieto and British Ambassador Peter Beckingham

HSBC's Laine Santana

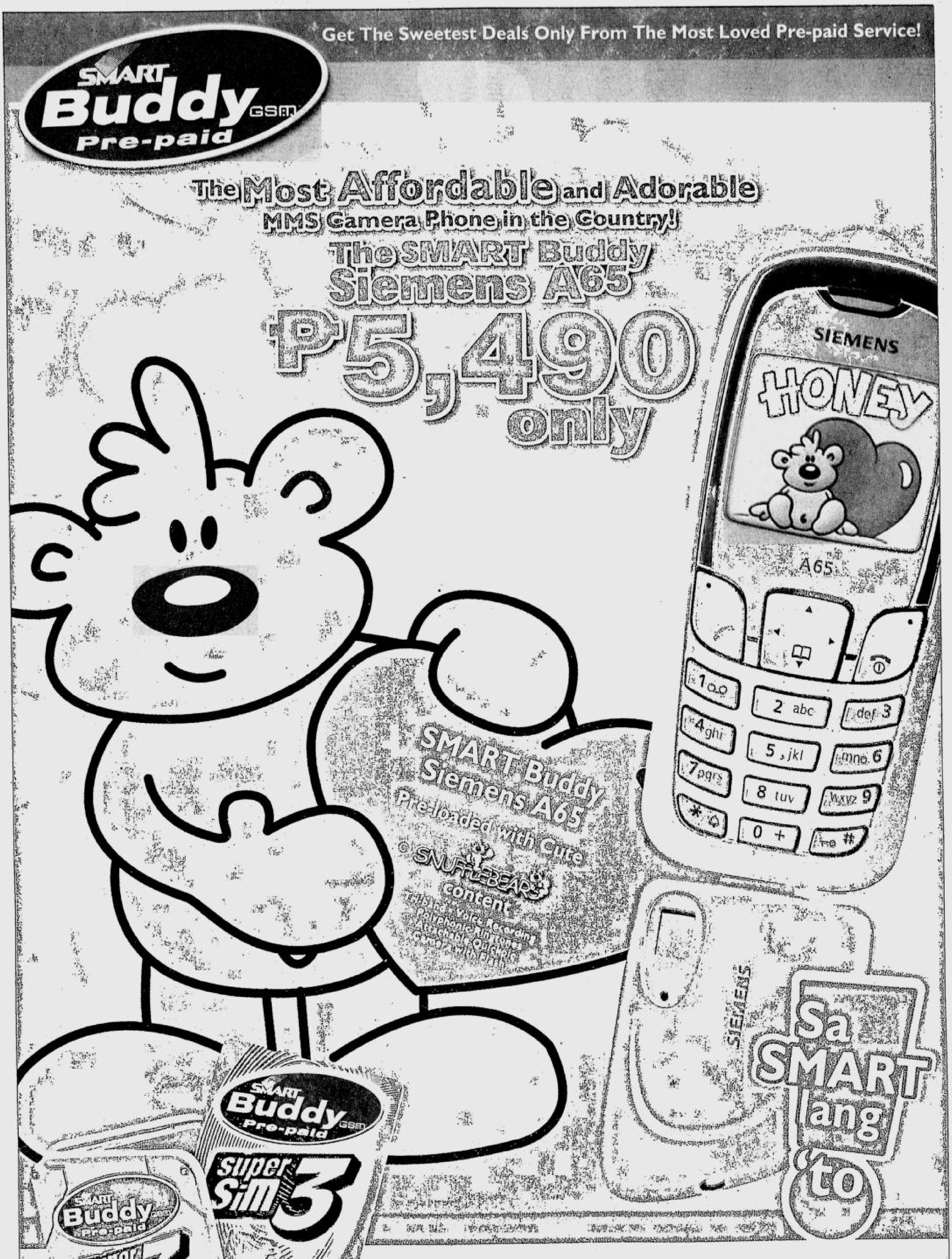

FENG shui master Charlie Chao


SONG Dynasty dance by Steps Dance School

WELLINGTON Ong, Helen Ong, David Wong, Mabel Chua and Vic Chua

RAYMOND Go, Ramon Sy, Uy Chun Bing and Anthony Y. Woo

WINNER Chichi Laperal with HSBC CEO Warner Manning and his wife Julie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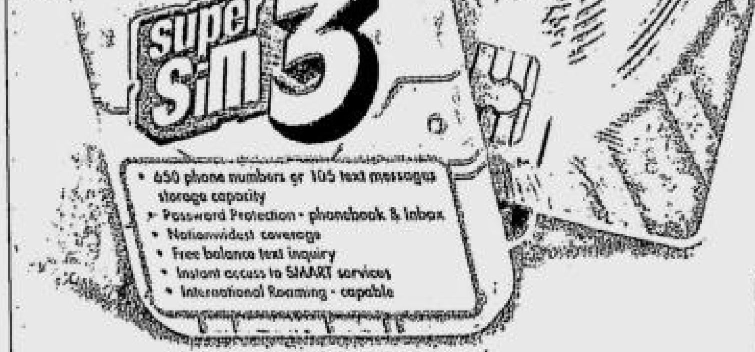
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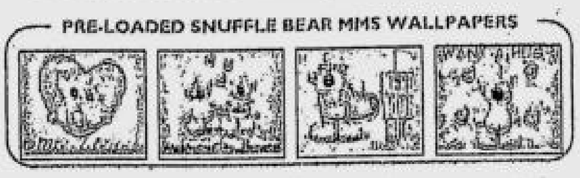

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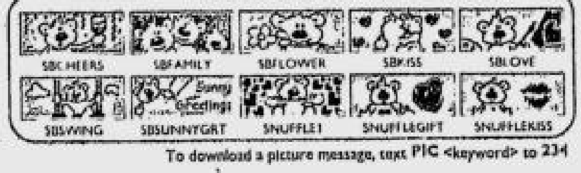
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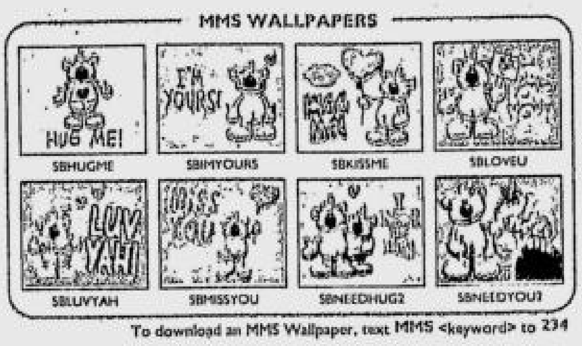
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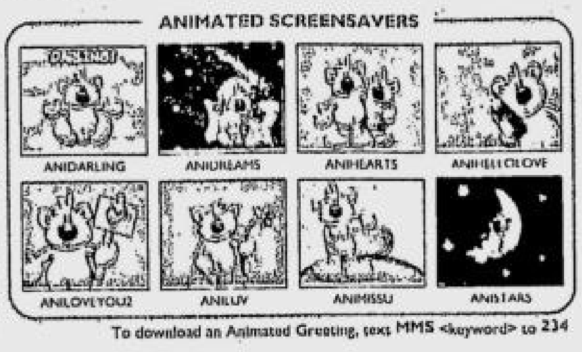
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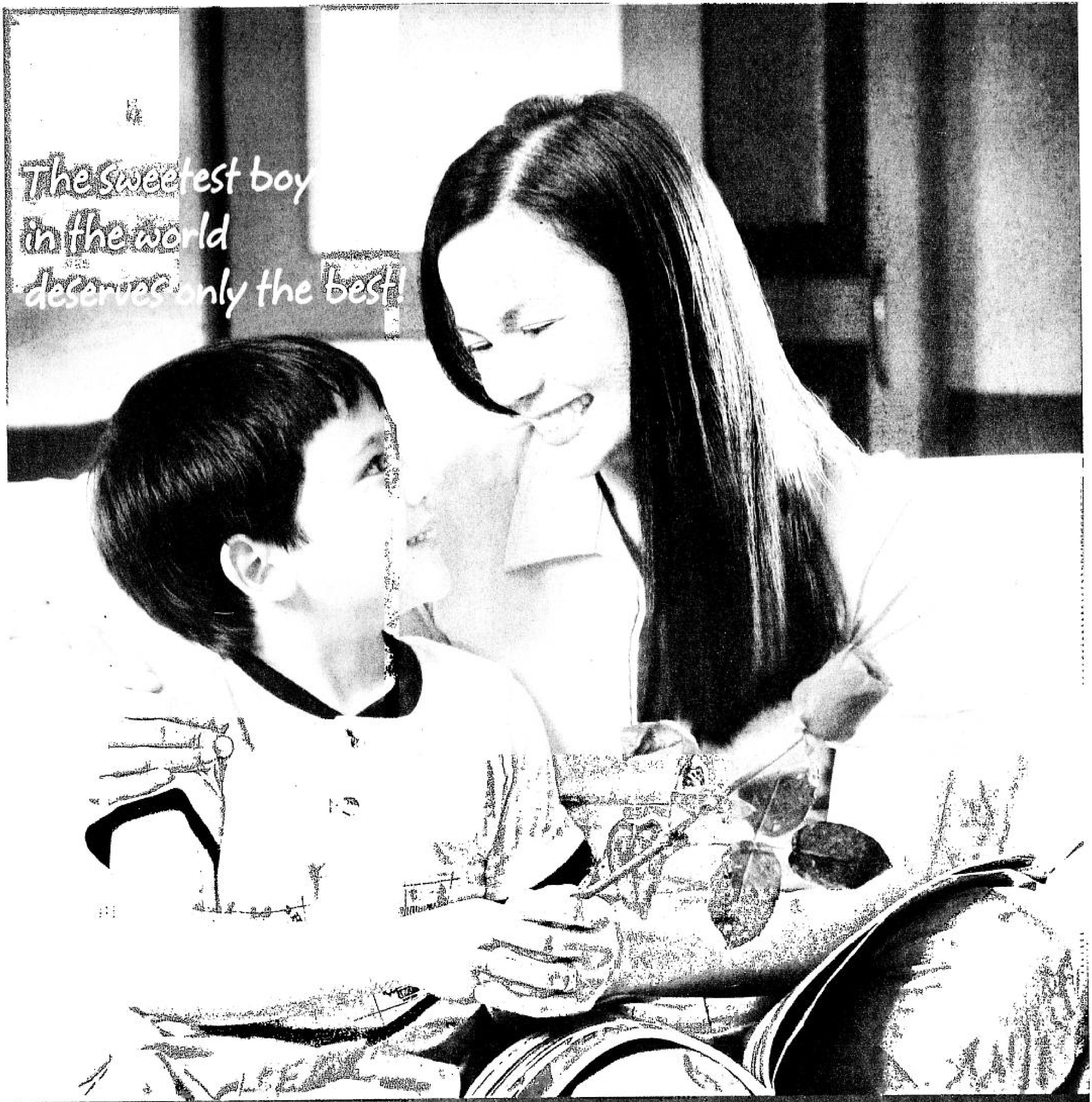

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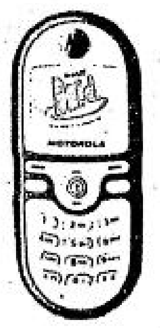
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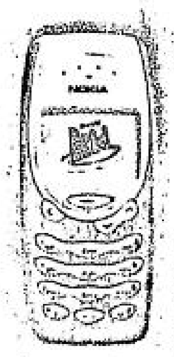
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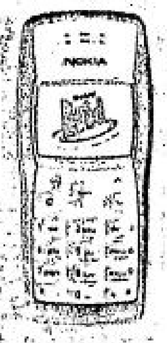
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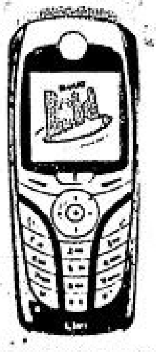
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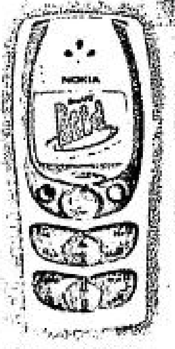
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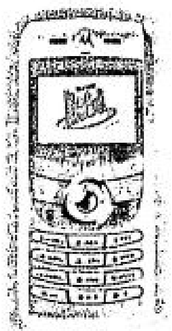
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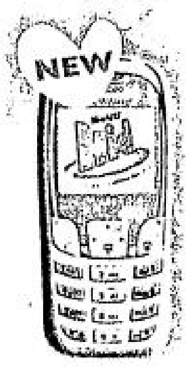

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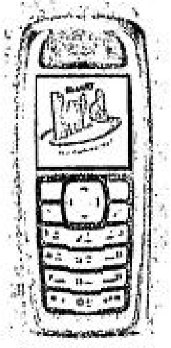
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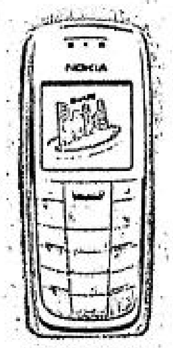
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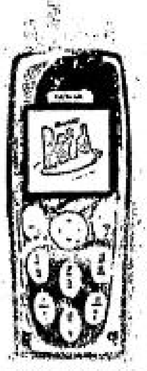
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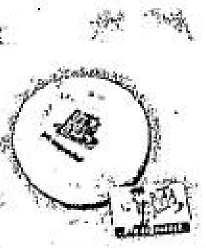
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THE PHILIPPINE Canine Search and Rescue Association Inc., with its motto "Educate, train and serve," is modeled after organizations in the United States. "If you're interested in volunteering and in saving lives using your dog and yourself as a tool, come join the movement," says its founder and board chair Renee J. Speltz.

Bantay to the rescue

Asia-Pacific's first and only K9 search and rescue group is ready to save lives during emergencies and disasters

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

THE PHILIPPINES is the most disaster-prone country in the world, according to a Brussels-based research center study in 2000.

For American Renee J. Speltz, a nonexistent canine search and rescue team in an area where 70-80 percent of natural disasters occur was simply unthinkable. And so, despite a barrage of well-meaning naysayers and numerous other obstacles, she established from scratch two years ago Asia-Pacific's first and only K9 search and rescue group.

While fate brought Speltz to the country when her husband Paul, executive director of the Asian Development Bank, was reassigned here, it was faith that urged her to spend a day at Homeland K9 training facility in Virginia, USA.

"It was a challenge for me when people said the Philippines was not ready for an organization like this, that it wa not doable, that I wouldn't get volunteers. Of course the country is ready if the people are," Speltz says.

Upon her return, she met with a Filipino trainer who had previous experience abroad to train her team of volunteers. All teams are certified, and have to be re-certified on a regular basis, says Speltz. If they don't pass, they have to go back to school again.

On standby

Now nearing 200 members, the Philippine Canine Search and Rescue Association Inc. (PHK9SAR) is nonprofit organization recognized by the US National Association for Search and Rescue, on standby 24 hours a day for emergency calls requiring canine search.

SAR dogs can find victims of floods, mudslides, typhoons, earthquake, fire, plane crashes, explosion and other disasters; lost children or old people; missing trekkers or mountain climbers; etc.

Filipinos, however, fail to recognize the importance of canine SAR, Speltz says. PHK9SAR, for instance, has yet to see the day when it gets the first call during an emergency.

When mountaineer and UST graduating nursing student Prana Escalante, 21, went missing in Mount Halcon, Oriental Mindoro in October last year, it took authorities a full five days before calling PHK9SAR.

"It was really late. By the time our guys arrived at the location, tracks had been traipsed on by a bunch of people. Trails and scents were lost. We should always be first on call, not the last resort. It's upsetting because it's a capability this country now has and people aren't getting it," she says.

The first 100 hours are crucial to finding survivors. After that, the elements, environmental and man-caused, affect the "virgin" trail. Temperature—extreme cold and heat—or moisture, rain, heavy wind and the time that has elapsed also determine the success of SAR.

Proximity

In case of heavy rainfall, Speltz says their team moves in as soon as things stabilize since the lives of the dogs and their handlers could be jeopardized as well.

Another frequent mistake, she says, is giving the SAR team washed and ironed clothing for its dogs to identify the missing person's scent. Clothes or pieces of fabric must be those worn by the victim—unwashed and un-ironed. Don't be embarrassed if it stinks. The dogs won't mind.

WITNESSING mass death during the 9/11 fall of the Twin Towers got Speltz started on the PHK9SAR. She is shown here With pet Tex, the choc lab too friendly to be a volunteer SAR dog

With the recent tsunami disaster that wrecked the South Asian region, Speltz says the French government sent two dogs, while the PHK9SAR team of seven, all geared up and ready to go, waited in vain.

"We were told we couldn't get there because there was no transportation the government could provide us," she says.

The Philippines' proximity to the disaster area could have made a difference. Transporting canines from the US and Europe to Asia takes between 50 to more than 70 hours, including adjustment period for the dogs upon touchdown. That leaves very little room for finding survivors.

According to a study by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in 2004, nearly 50 percent of the world's major natural disasters have occurred in Asia in the last decade. About 91 percent of the total population affected is also here, plus 54 percent of the deaths and 57 percent of the economic losses.

Speltz says the Philippines is an ideal location for the region since it is just a few hours away from everywhere else. Communication won't [illegible]oblem either as Filipinos are fluent in English.

"We will mobilize if you need us, but you will have to call us immediately if there's a disaster. Our guys are not for show. They are volunteers who believe in the sanctity of human lives. Our aim is to find victims and save lives. We need the public to understand what we do, why we are doing it and who are we doing it for."

Unlike most countries in the West, volunteerism is an idea not well-received by Filipinos. Not at all surprising, considering this is a land where most people worry primarily about where to get their next meal. Speltz, however, is not losing hope.

"It's not always the government's job to make lives better. We have to help ourselves. We are responsible for each other. If [only] people understand and see how good volunteerism feels. Our guys are not rich. They are regular guys, and yet they never give up. They believe in the canine SAR idea. That, for me, is already a huge success," she says.

Year-long training

Since most, if not all volunteers have day jobs, dog and handler training takes a year to complete. Of the 50 that volunteered for the first batch—dogs and handlers—only 10 passed the screening.

Separate tests are given to dogs and handlers, hence a dog could pass with flying colors but his/her handler could flunk, or vice versa.

Dogs belonging to the Sporting and Working Breeds, such as Labradors, Golden Retrievers, Rottweilers, German Shepherds, Malinois, Boxers, etc., are screened for their agility, intelligence, social behavior, trainability, obedience.

Failure in the tests doesn't mean the dogs are dumb. Most of the time flunkers are too distracted, too playful or friendly, too stubborn, too aggressive. SAR dogs are trained to never touch victims, hence a mischievous canine, no matter how smart, won't make a good candidate for a volunteer dog.

A determined handler whose dog has failed will be provided a dog who doesn't have its own handler, says Speltz. A handler who did not pass the screening can opt to donate his or her dog, or take another test in the future.

The Philippines, Speltz says, has a solid dog culture. While that is an advantage, there lies the irony as well, as dogs are trained to save human lives in a country where dogs are butchered, sometimes consumed as *pulutan* (finger food) for macho all-night drinking sprees.

"I do not condone eating dogs. [But] if you eat dogs because you're hungry and you have *askals* out there in the same way you have a chicken, if it's not a pet... How can I blame someone who's hungry for eating what's available?" she says.

Speltz hopes to one day have cell units all over the country, so that during distress calls canine help would just be minutes away.

In the meantime, people from the provinces can have their dogs screened in Manila, provided they are willing to stay for a year if they passed, and must be able to support themselves during the said period.

Services to requesting agencies and families of lost people are free of charge. PHK9SAR operates through donations from its members, supporters and corporations.

For emergency, call its hotline at (0921) 7397163. For more information, visit the website at www.phk9sar.org. For inquiries and monetary and dog donations, e-mail phk9sar@yahoo.com

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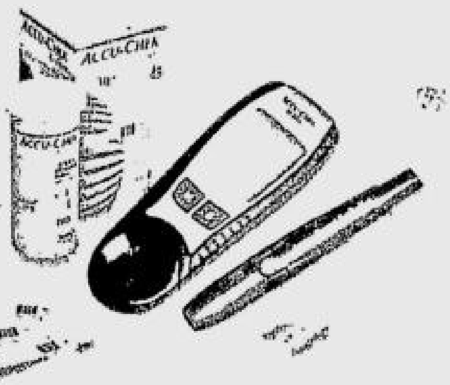

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BY ROBERT WONG

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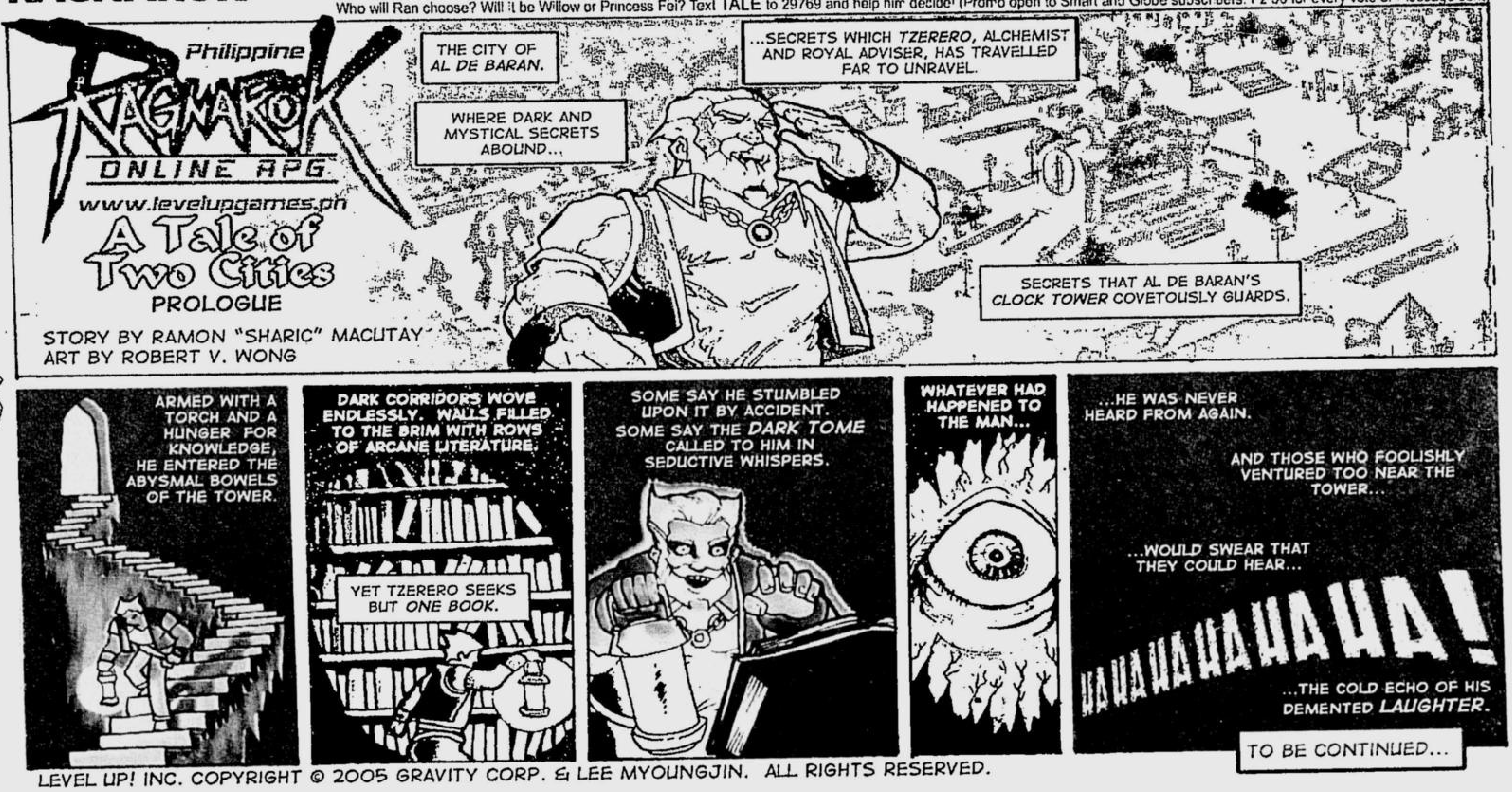
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ARMED WITH A TORCH AND A HUNGER FOR KNOWLEDGE, HE ENTERED THE ABYSMAL BOWELS OF THE TOWER.
DARK CORRIDORS WOVE ENDLESSLY. WALLS FILLED TO THE BRIM WITH ROWS OF ARCANE LITERATURE.
YET TZERERO SEEKS BUT ONE BOOK.
SOME SAY HE STUMBLED UPON IT BY ACCIDENT. SOME SAY THE DARK TOME CALLED TO HIM IN SEDUCTIVE WHISPERS.
WHATEVER HAD HAPPENED TO THE MAN...
...HE WAS NEVER HEARD FROM AGAIN.
AND THOSE WHO FOOLISHLY VENTURED TOO NEAR THE TOWER...
...WOULD SWEAR THAT THEY COULD HEAR...
HAHAHAHAHAHAHA!
...THE COLD ECHO OF HIS DEMENTED LAUGHTER.
TO BE CONTINUED...

STORY BY RAMON "SHARIC" MACUTAY
ART BY ROBERT V. WONG

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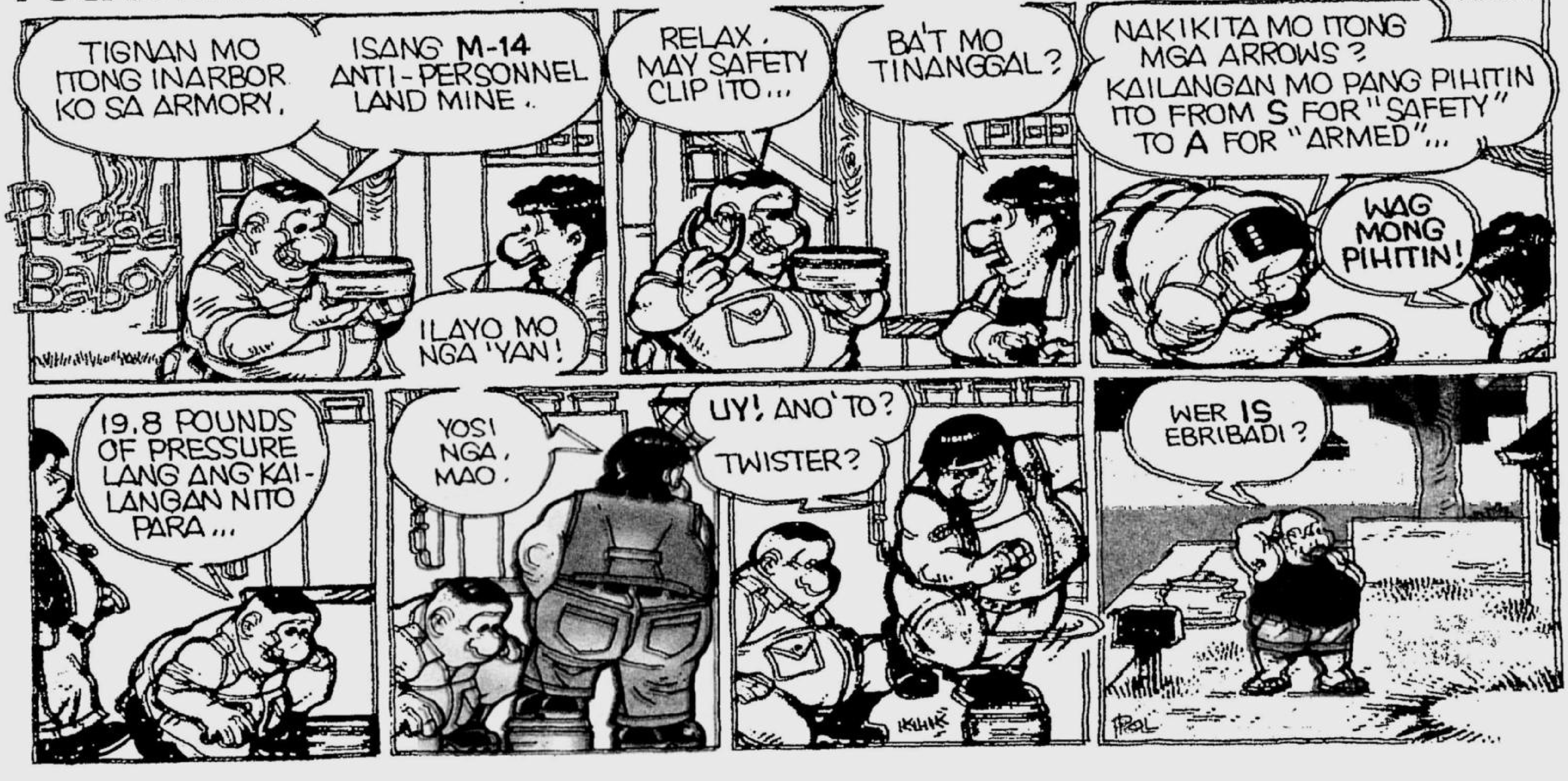
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.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ILAYO MO NGA 'YAN!
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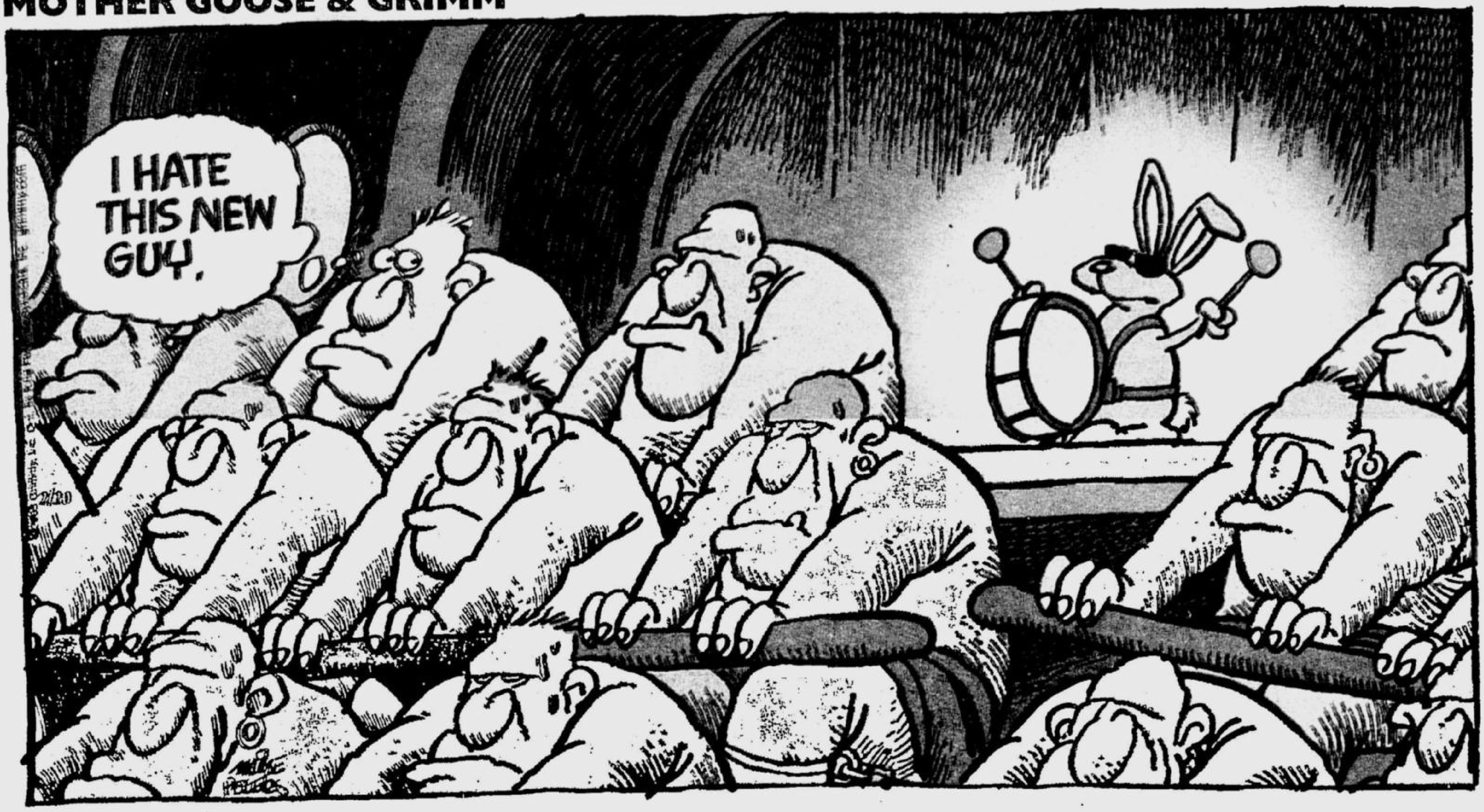
BA'T MO TINANGGAL?
NAKIKITA MO ITONG MGA ARROWS? KAILANGAN MO PANG PIHITIN ITO FROM S FOR "SAFETY" TO A FOR "ARMED"...
WAG MONG PIHITIN!
19.8 POUNDS OF PRESSURE LANG ANG KAILANGAN NITO PARA...
YOSI NGA, MAO.
UY! ANO'TO?
TWISTER?
KLIHK
WER IS EBRIBADI?
POL

FOLLOW THE FOLD TO GET TO MIDGARD

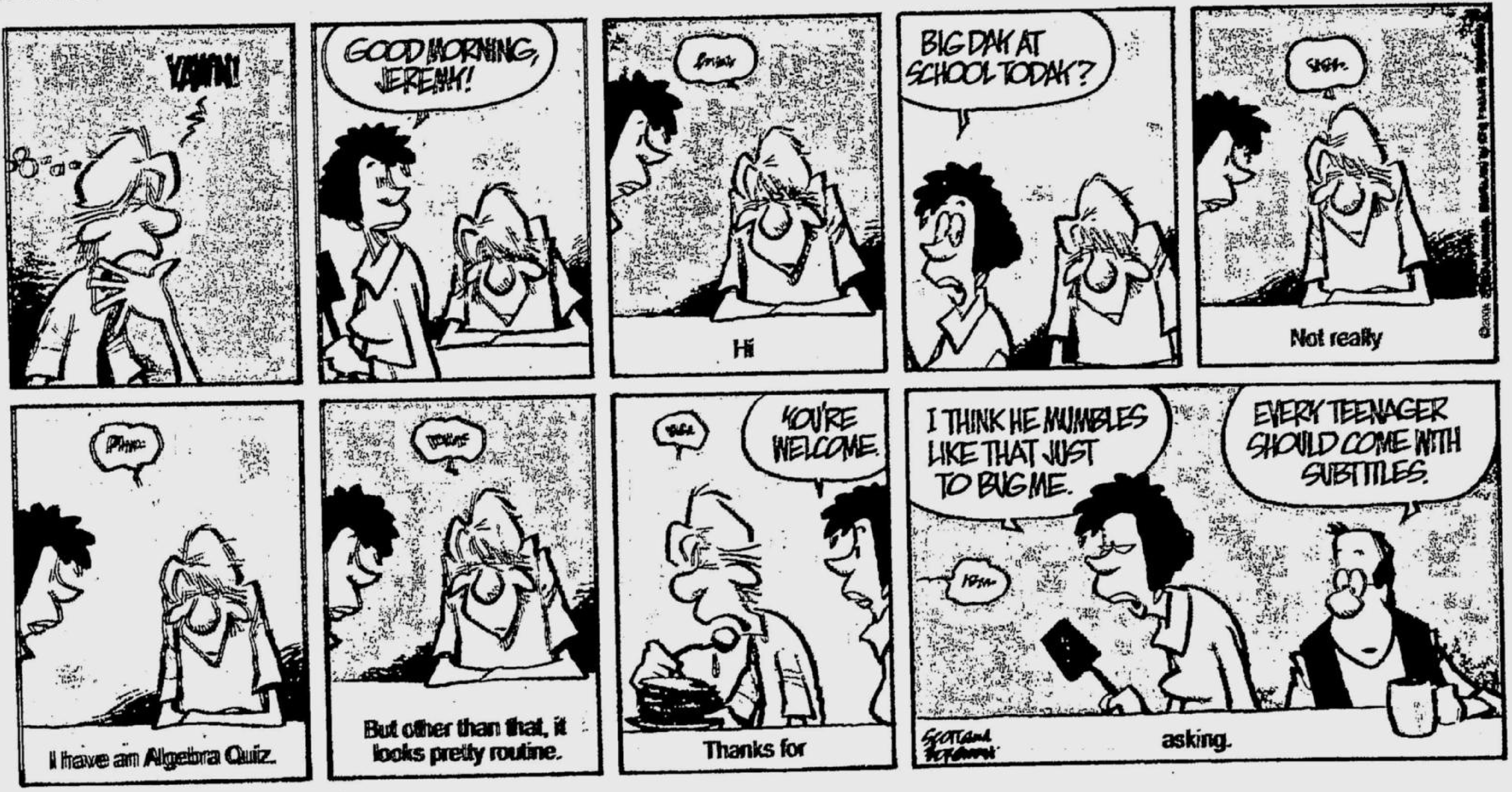
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


I HATE THIS NEW GUY.
MIKE PETERS

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN

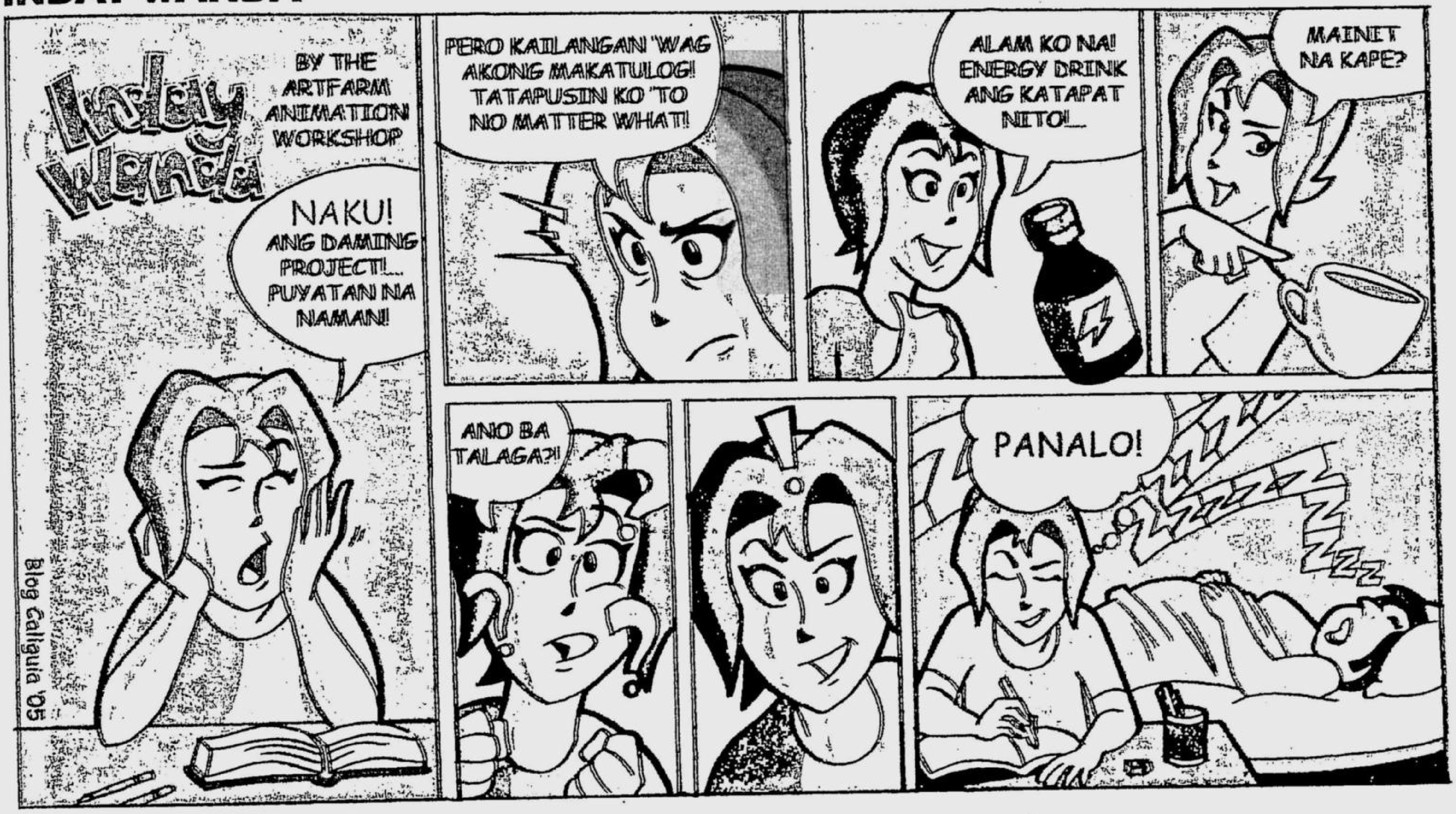

YAWN!
GOOD MORNING, JEREMY!
Hi
BIG DAY AT SCHOOL TODAY?
Not really
I have an Algebra Quiz.
But other than that, it looks pretty routine.
YOU'RE WELCOME.
Thanks for
I THINK HE MUMBLES LIKE THAT JUST TO BUG ME.
EVERY TEENAGER SHOULD COME WITH SUBTITLES.
asking.
SCOTT AND BORGMAN

A.

FOLD OUT AT CENTER TO GET THE BIG PICTURE

INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA


Inday Wanda
BY THE ARTFARM ANIMATION WORKSHOP
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Blog Caliguia '05
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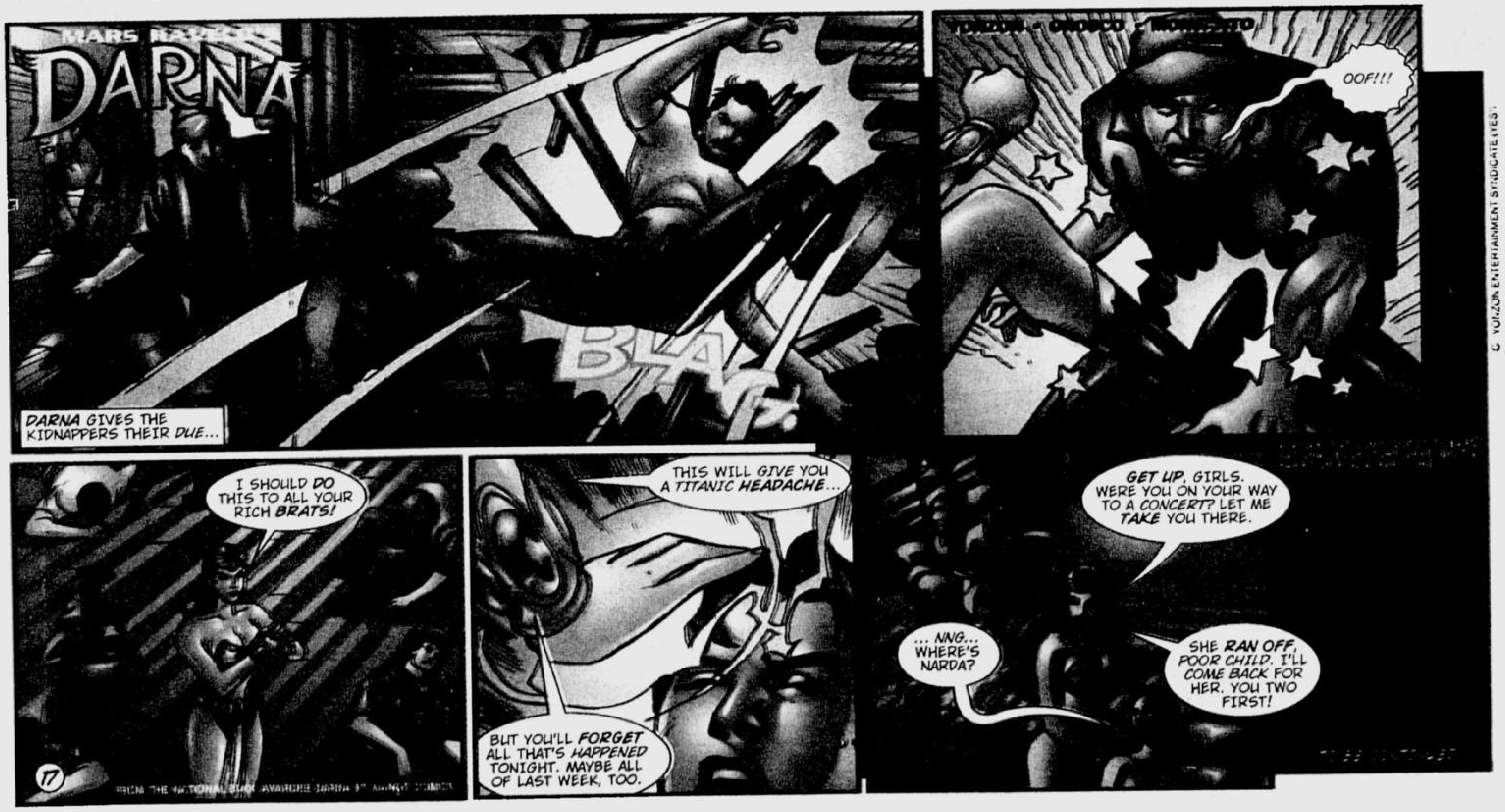
ALAM KO NA! ENERGY DRINK ANG KATAPAT NITO!...
MAINET NA KAPE?
ANO BA TALAGA?!
PANALO!
ZZZ

DARNA

BY MANGO COMICS


MARS RAVELO'S
DARNA
DARNA GIVES THE KIDNAPPERS THEIR DUE...
OOF!!!
I SHOULD DO THIS TO ALL YOUR RICH BRATS!
17
THIS WILL GIVE YOU A TITANIC HEADACHE...
BUT YOU'LL FORGET ALL THAT'S HAPPENED TONIGHT. MAYBE ALL OF LAST WEEK, TOO.
GET UP, GIRLS. WERE YOU ON YOUR WAY TO A CONCERT? LET ME TAKE YOU THERE.
... NNG... WHERE'S NARDA?
SHE RAN OFF, POOR CHILD. I'LL COME BACK FOR HER. YOU TWO FIRST!

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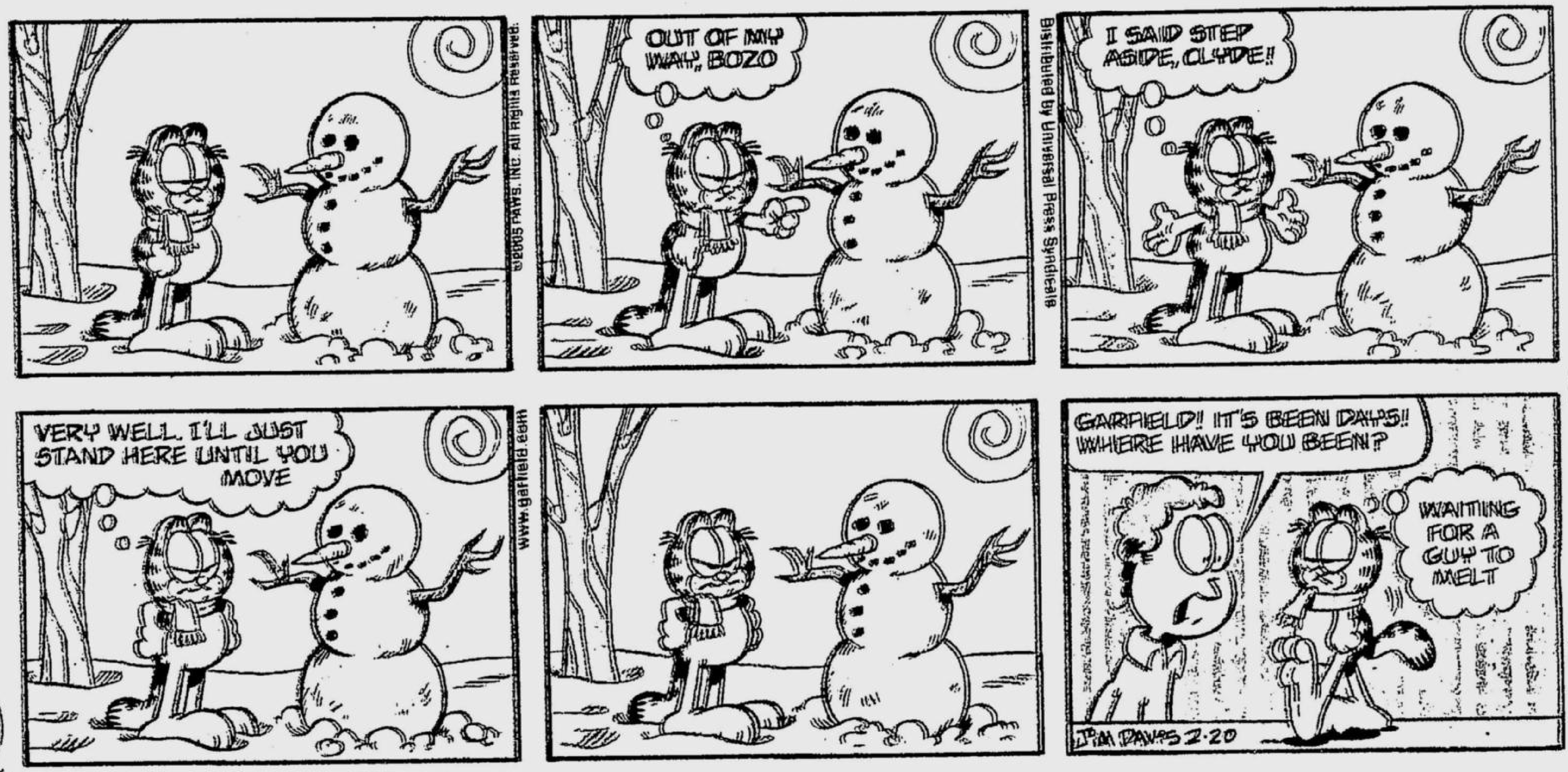
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS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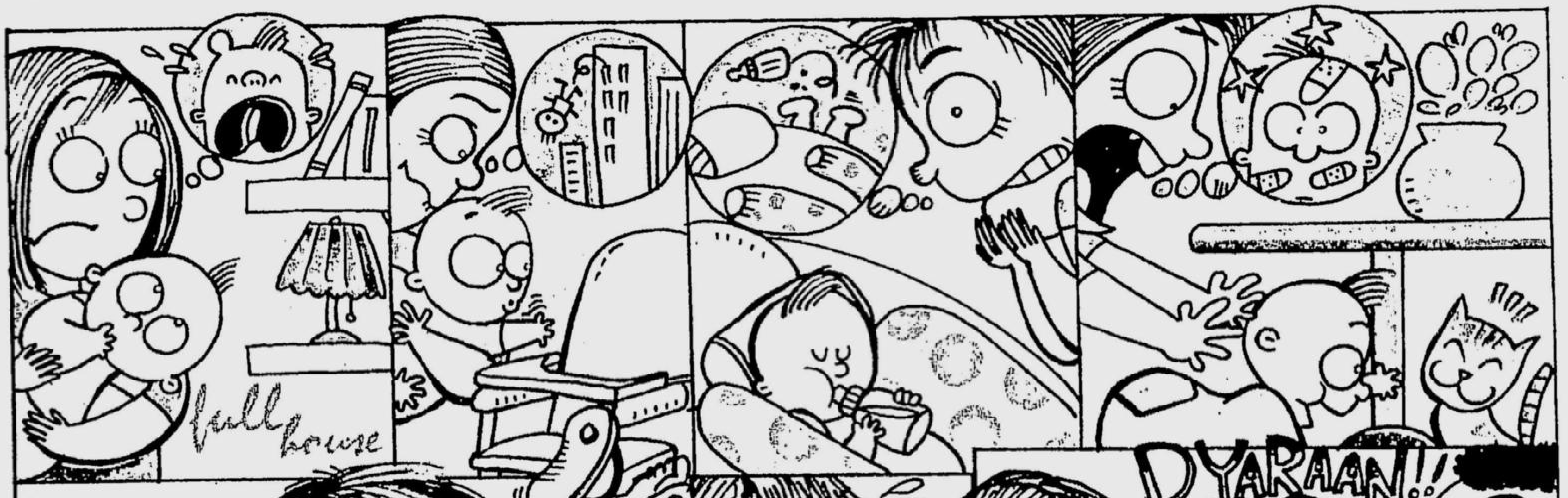
FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


full house
DYARAAN!!

B. TURN THE PAGE TO GET IT RIGHT

MATTEO, third from left, with host Virgie Ramos, Marilu Martinez, grandfather Gianni, mom Glenna, aunts Iris Fernan Arcenas and Divine Guidicelli, sister Georgia, Mai Cojuangco Zini and architect Ed Gallego, and Italian Ambassador Umberto Colesanti and wife Clara

CANDLE DINNER, sold-out Swatch Valentine 2005 special watch, returns with the Spring-Summer 2005 collection

Matteo magnifico

THE FAST AND FABULOUS flashes his killer smile (above) and at age 11 (below)

The Fil-Italian heartthrob, who has won 80 trophies and medals for karting, wins again as he is named the new Swatch endorser

GIRLS swoon over new Swatch endorser Matteo Guidicelli's good looks but wait until they see his treasure trove of awards for karting, his first love.

There is nothing more seductive than the glow of a championship. The young Guidicelli is, in fact, twice the champ. He recently carted two awards: the Karter of the Year (open class) and the Junior Karter of the Year (17 years old and below category).

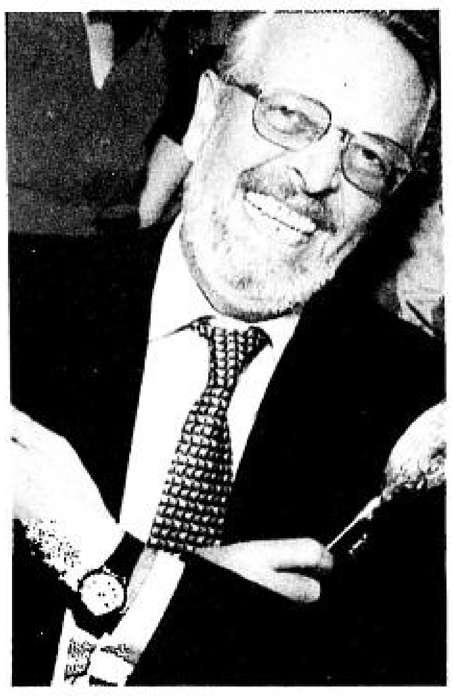
Swatch diva Virgie Ramos could not have been more pleased by this turn of karting events. So she threw an Italian-flavored lunch for the champ and displayed at the 24/7 Gift Gate lounge in Glorietta 2 the Fil-Italian winner's harvest of trophies and awards since he first started go-karting at age 11.

The lunchtime crowd of well-wishers included the Italian ambassador, Umberto Colesanti, his wife Clara, Matteo's grandfather Gianni, parents Gianluca and Glenna and sister Georgia, among others.

Coinciding with the lunch honoring Matteo was the sneak preview of the fabulous Swatch Spring-Summer 2005 collection, soon to be available at all Swatch stores and kiosks in early March.

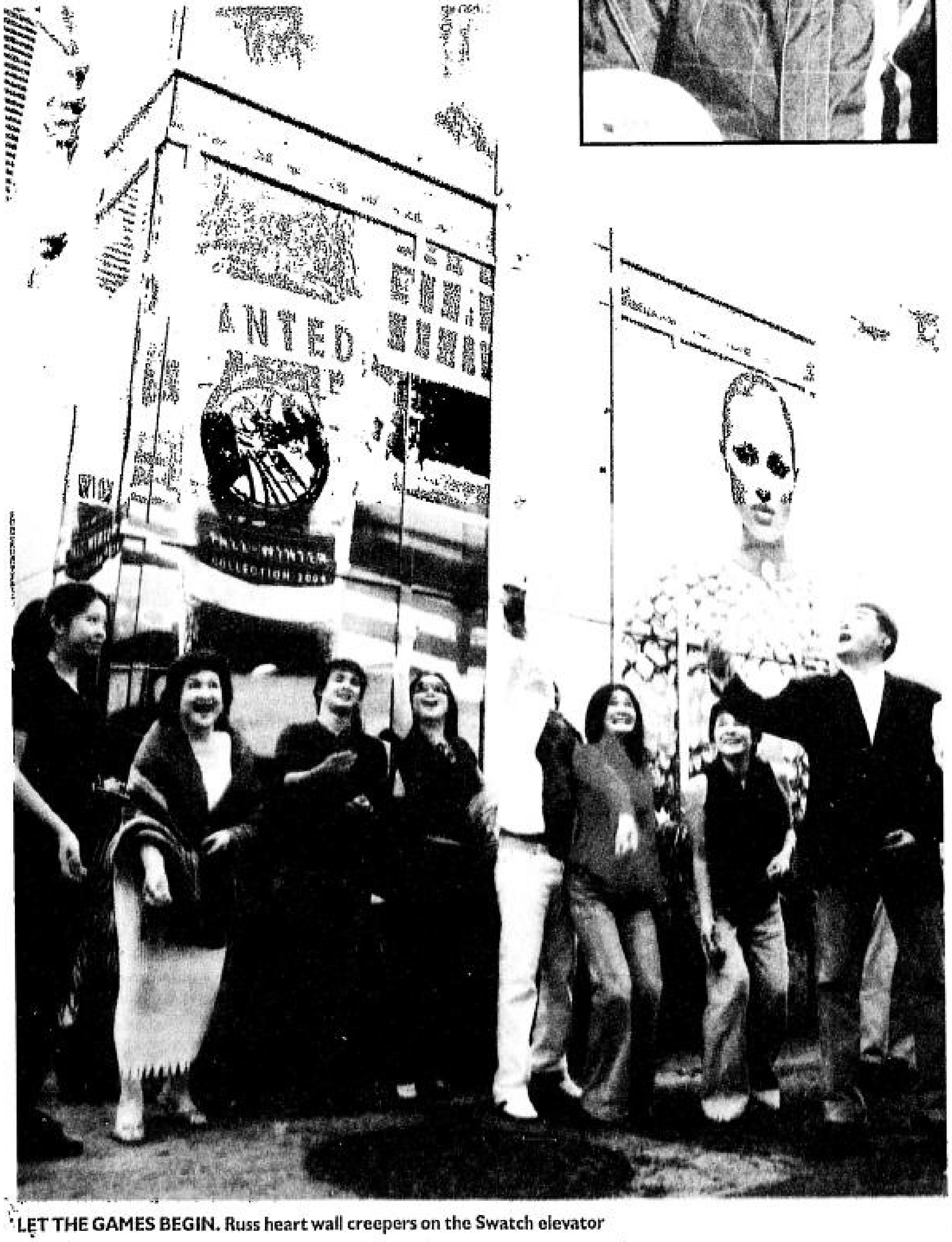
Swatch collectors who were unable to buy the Swatch Valentine Special 2005 "Candle Dinner" should take heart. Immediately sold out in the lead up to Valentine's Day, the watch will make a comeback as part of the Spring-Summer collection.

Swatch is exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Gift Gate Inc. and is available at all Swatch stores and kiosks in all major mall.



HIS EXCELLENCY shows off his vintage Swatch.

ORNUSSA Cadness and Borgy Manotoc



LET THE GAMES BEGIN. Russ heart wall creepers on the Swatch elevator

GUIDICELLI MEN. Gorgeous Matteo with grandfather Gianni and father Gianluca

SOCCER player Georgia Guidicelli

TESSA Prieto-Valdes, JanJan Gonzales, Jonas Eggeling, Matteo, Mica Romulo, Maria Cruz, and Pepper Teehankee with their Lego vehicle entries

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

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WONDER OF WONDERS. The pyramids of Egypt provide a breathtaking background to a "class picture" of the Famous 8 voyagers.

Shop like an Egyptian

Text and photos by Rajo Laurel
Contributor

On a Famous voyage to the land of pharaohs, designer Rajo Laurel goes on a wild shopping spree

I HAVE been a "Famous Voyage" loyalist since it first sailed under Keren Pascual's masterful steering. I have enjoyed all the fun and interesting places—from Singapore, Langkawi and Phuket to Hong Kong, Vietnam and China all the way to Sydney, Australia! But the latest Famous Voyage has been the most exciting and the most fascinating by far. "Famous 8" headed to Egypt!

Reverence for ancient history can pull you towards museums, temples and all kinds of ruins in Egypt, but the present pulsates in the exotic bazaars filled to the rafters with collectible items. And if there is one thing that Filipino travelers love to do, it is shopping, shopping, shopping.

If you have a choice between looking at a 4,000-year-old mummified teenage king with all his treasures intact or visiting one of the most intriguing shopping places ever, which experience do you think will win?

Not that there are losers in either case. It's just that in a museum you can only view the artifacts, while in shopping you can actually touch the merchandise, smell it, even taste it and, best of all, buy it!

Imagine yourself being encased in one gigantic curio cabinet filled with oddities and treasures all with their own special tale to tell. That is exactly how I felt while I was meandering through the wonderful bazaar that is Khan Al-Khalili!

A 14th century medieval edifice situated right in the center of Cairo, the center was built by Garkas Al-Khalili. A master of horses to one of the most famous sultans of Egypt, Garkas built the bazaar to showcase the best of what the local craftsmen had to offer, from dyeing to carving, from metal works to embroidery, among other Egyptian crafts. Many of the original shops still exist to this day.

I felt like a child let loose in a candy store. But I did keep my wits about me and I picked up lessons here and there that I have sorted into three lists. Read on for the most essential shopping information you will need in enchanting Egypt.

If you're thinking of going to Egypt, your best bet for travel arrangements is to call Ligaya Tabirao at Meteor Philippines Tours and Travel, tel. 5647613 or 09189125177 or 09275118814.

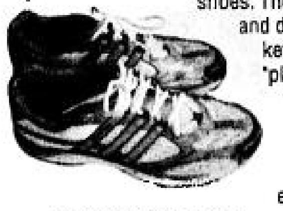
BY DESIGN. The author rests from retail therapy before a medieval carved stone gate in Kahn Al-khalili

Top 10 shopping tips

1 Buy in the local currency. You will get a better bargain and the computation is a cinch: It is roughly 1 Egyptian pound to P10.

2 Look around first to see what you like. Do not buy at the first store you see, the deeper you go into the market, the cheaper the price gets.

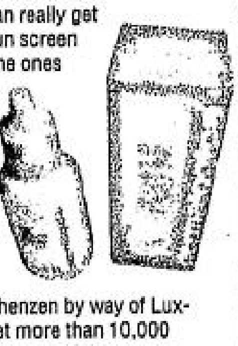
3 Bring Bench Alcogel. This is a must as every item you touch is covered with dust.



4 Do not wear open-toed shoes. The grime and dust in the market can turn your "piggies" into "uglies" in a matter of minutes. Rubber trainers are the best (Addidas, of course!).

5 Haggling is allowed. Always offer half the asking price and work your way up to 60 percent to 70 percent of the price. If you're going to buy more than one piece you can even go lower. Egyptians can get pushy so be firm in haggling. The walking away trick works all the time. But do not begin bargaining if you're really not interested. It's a shame to waste your and the shopkeeper's time.

6 Bring a backpack big enough to store your purchases. This is really a good idea since it keeps your hands free.



7 The Egyptian sun can really get strong, so a goodsun screen is essential. I love the ones by Dermalogica.

8 It seems everything is now made in China. So inspect the items carefully and make sure that you're really getting something Egyptian and not Shenzen by way of Luxor. Egypt is a market more than 10,000 miles away from home and it has never heard of exchange, return and refund policies.

9 Take a shopping break at Fishawi's. It's one of the oldest coffeehouses in the market. Sit around and soak in the splendor of its decor, especially the beautiful carved mirrors.

10 If there's something you really love, buy it don't dilly-dally. Egypt is not like Bangkok or the Greenhills tiangge where you can easily return.

Top 10 best buys

QUILTS reminiscent of kaleidoscope. This is me asking for a discount.

MY SHOPPING companions Anton Barreto, Pauline Suaco-Juan and Mely Abad appreciating the beauty of the galabiyya

A FLEA market stall filled with copper oddities.

PERFUME essences to sample at **Ehab Rezk**

1 **Slippers and flats.** The "It" shoes of the moment are the flats and I found the most adorable "Marc Jacob-esque" camel leather flats with hand-stitching and contrast weaving. I loved the green and the red ones. The lounge slipper was also cool, really conjuring up these bohemian pool party fantasies.

2 **Necklaces.** Banish those brooches or turn them all into neck pendants. Egypt's beautiful neck charmers made my mouth dry and my palms sweat with excitement. Best deals are the Bedouin silver pendants, turquoise and coral pieces that really spelled "summer."

3 **Cuffs.** It's really all about bangles, bracelets and wrist details. Veer away from the charm bracelets that frankly have lost their... uhm, charm. Go for the bold statement-making pieces, in antique silver or, even better, in so hot gold. The plated ones are everywhere and the ones with enamel details are to-die for.

4 **Rings.** I was so bowled over by the rings at one store! They were phenomenally large that I fantasized I was Meldy Co (one of my style icons) while trying them on. I bought one for my love, Tessa Prieto Valdes. It was probably 150 carats of the freakest orange colored stone, cut and polished into something Queen Nefertiti would have approved of.

5 **Galabiyyas.** A trip to Egypt is not complete if you do not buy one of these. It's a floor-length tunic, with really ornate embroidery running along the front or the sides. It's so very "now," and it's perfect for lounging around the beach. I suggest you get one in white with gold embellishments.

LEAH Puyat showing off rings and bling-blings.

6 **Copper lamps.** This is one of those must-buys. The problem is which lamps to buy. I caught myself getting cross-eyed and mesmerized at the same time while trying to choose. I wanted to take them all home.

7 **Icons.** The Egyptian culture has embraced many different religions and the icons of the Coptic Christians are really beautiful. The antique ones can get pretty pricey but the new decopauge ones are also very collectible.

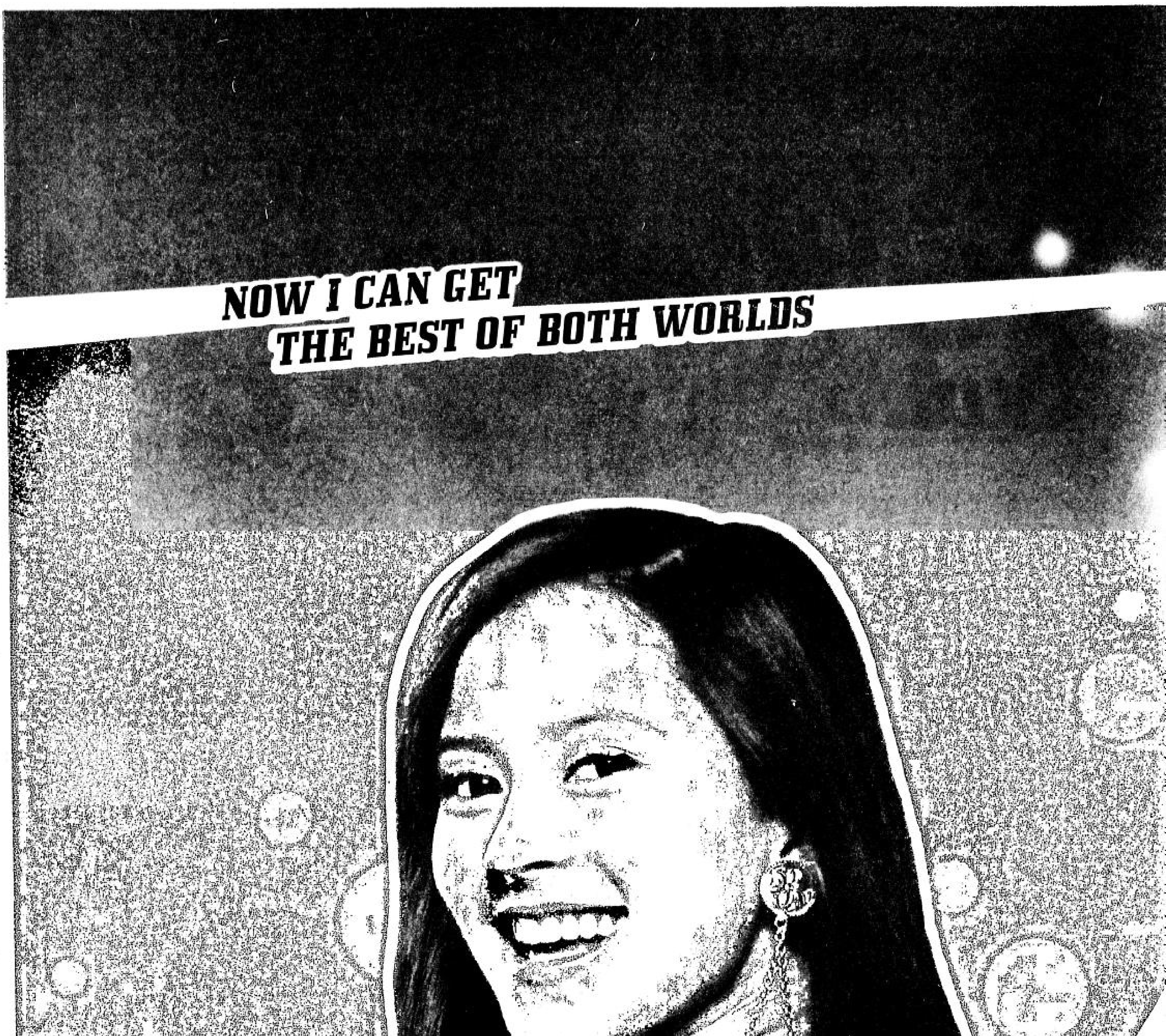
8 **Carpets.** Egypt has a long history of carpet-making and if you can get the chance to visit the centers where they teach the trade to young people, you not only contribute to the legacy of an ancient and dwindling craft but you can also take home one of their amazingly beautiful tapestries.

9 **Perfume essences.** Egyptians practically invented the perfume and have been producing it for centuries. There was so much really to choose from but we all bought the "Secret of the Nile," which is said to attract lovers at the stroke of midnight. The glass bottles that they sell together with the essences are all so delicate and feminine.

10 **Quilts.** I am a sucker for anything handmade. I had my name stitched on the fabric quilts. The colors and patterns were like my favorite toy as a child—the kaleidoscope.

A BUNCH of slippers like fruits yearning to be picked

COPPER lamps to accent any home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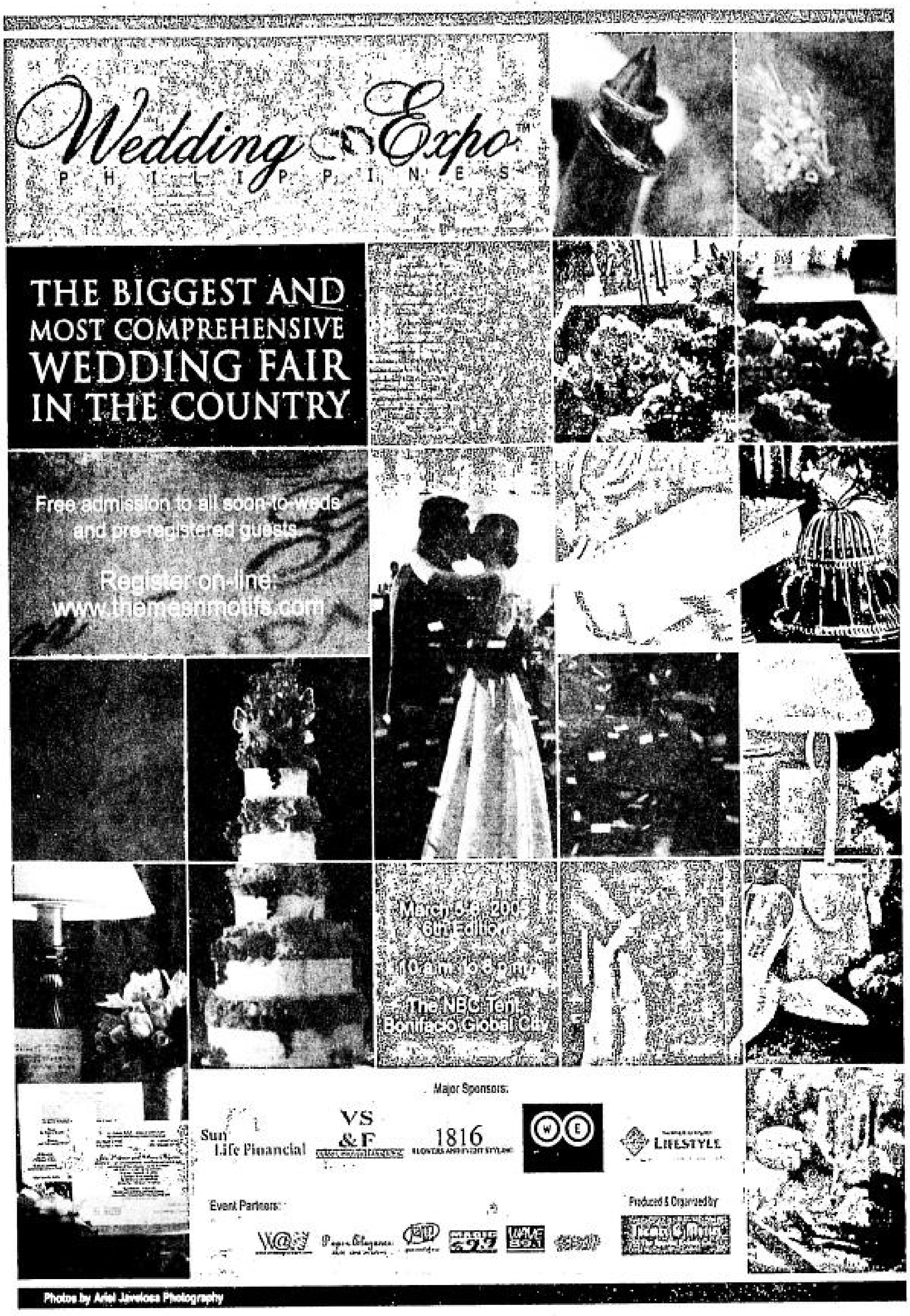
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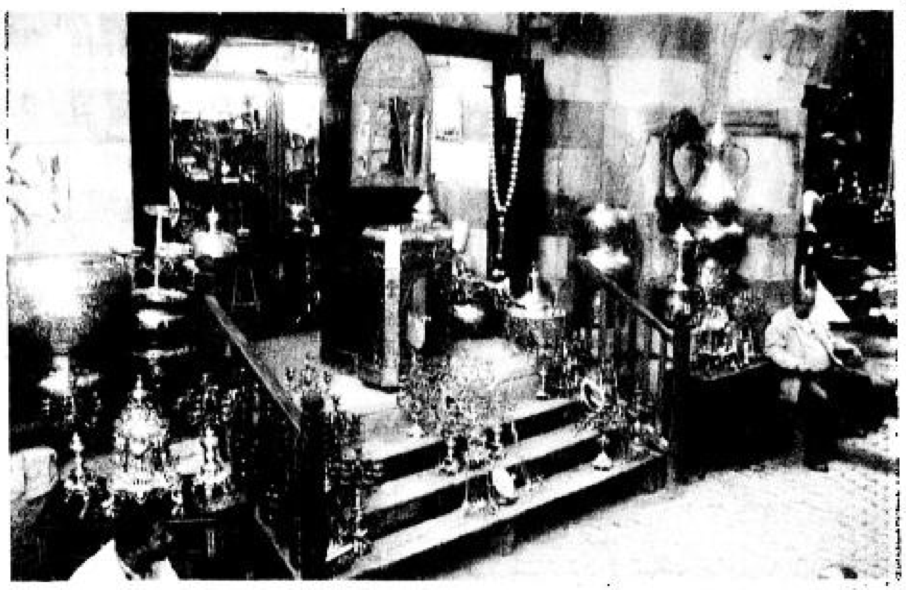
AN ALCOVE filled with metal and copper treasures



Shop like an Egyptian

Top five shops in Egypt

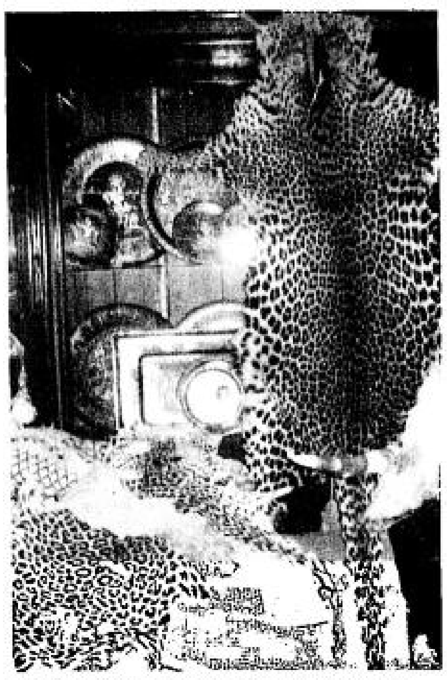
1 **Essams Rashads, Precious Stones.** 1 El Salhia St. Khan Al-Khalili; tel. 202-5881526 and mobile number 0123259867)
This store is really precious. It's a wholesale place but accepts anyone buying just one item. The selection is so unbelievably wide that I stayed for more than two hours. I loved it that they weighed everything regardless of age or value. Everything is based on weight, and at P25 a gram, that's not bad at all. Stock up on turquoise and corral pieces, plus the antique Bedouin pendants.

2 **Oriental Tapestry School** with two branches, at Sakkara and at Giza; tel. 202-8190092 and 202-3847593; fax 202-8190065). You can't miss this place because it's usually the biggest building along the highway. It's both a school and a showroom. The pieces are really gorgeous. They have so many types of carpets to choose from, such as intricate silk and rough kilim. There are also wool and cotton-blend carpets. There are so many designs available, from Nubian traditional, geometric Pharoic to modern romantic.
I needed an Advil by the end of the day at this place. Good thing the free Egyptian coffee was strong and yummy. Best of all, the owner, Sammy Fayed (a cousin of Dodie, the infamous Fayed of the Princess Diana tragedy), is really sweet and professional; we got our carpets through their door-to-door service three days after we arrived. Do not forget to get your freebie fashionable tote bag with every purchase; made from scrap carpets, it is really hip and cool. Perfect for the beach!

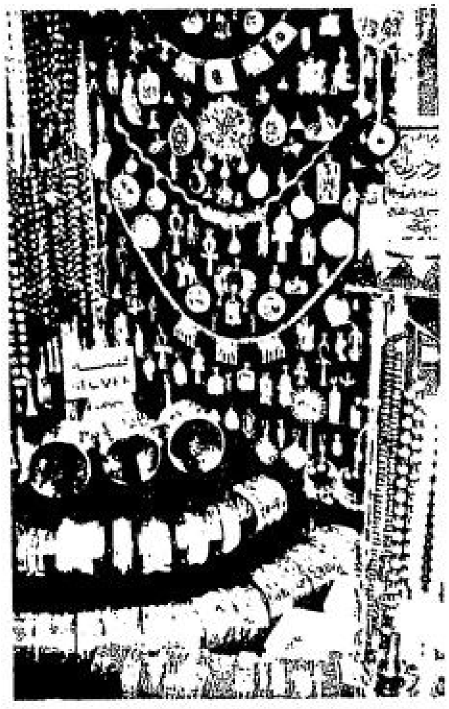
3 **Mostafa Azam.** (4 Khan Al-Khalili. Caico; tel. 202-5932333 and 202-5927333).
This wonderful store is really like a giant curio cabinet. You will feel like Alice in Wonderland as your eyes wander across items, from Egyptian musical instruments to "shisha's" water smoke pipes in really interesting designs. I also saw leopard skin rugs that were so divine, but I held back because I know they are endangered and, believe it or not, there's some moral restraint left in me. However, this is the place for getting copper lamps and leather products. Look for Sayid. Hhe is quite friendly and knows how to greet you in Tagalog.

4 **Mohamed El Saka.** (74 Gohar El Ska Gedada El Sagha; tel. 202-5888835; fax 202-58880330) I love the jewelry in this hole-in-the wall filled with the most exquisite pieces. They concentrate on silver Bedouin items. Take your time in this shop and look at each work of art, then let it transport you to the time of Anthony and Cleopatra.

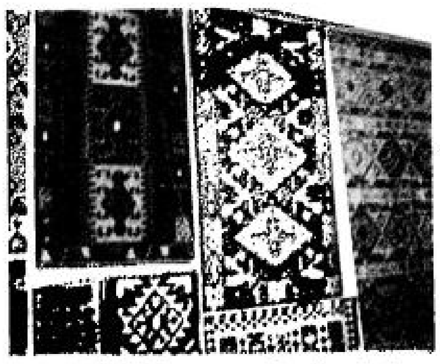
5 **Ehab Rezk.** (7 Ibrahim Basha El Keber St. Khan Al-Khalili; tel. 202-5909178) The perfume essences in this shop is very good and the attitude is really laid-back. No one pushes you to make a purchase. They explain everything quite clearly and give you the time to take it all-in. Best of all they have the most attractive shopkeepers. No wonder the shop attracted mostly women the day we were there. It's either that or the aphrodisiac essence was really working.



LEOPARD skins that are beautiful but are morally wrong to purchase



A DISPLAY of Mohamed El Saka's wares



THE ORIENTAL tapestry school's selection of carpets

MUSICAL instruments and several tourist souvenirs

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Be part of one of the fastest growing retail companies in the Philippines!

ACCOUNTING STAFF
- With at least 1 year experience in general accounting

FASHION DESIGNER
- Has intensive work experience in fashion designing preferably of women's apparel
- Exceptionally creative: updated with the latest trends in clothing

HR MANAGER
- Knowledgeable in all aspects of HRM: Acquisition and Preparation, Assessment and Development, Compensation of Human Resources and Employee Relations

MANAGEMENT TRAINEE
- Must have at least 1 year of work experience in the retail industry, handling sales
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in NCR (or residents of Bacoor, Cavite)
- Fresh graduates of Marketing or Management with exceptional academic standing and high leadership skills may apply

QUALITY CONTROLLER
- With previous work experience handling the quality control of garments
- Meticulous and flexible in terms of location of assignments

SALES STAFF
- With previous work experience in sales, cashiering and inventory management
- At present, we give priority to applicants who are physically more of the big and heavy type

VISUAL MERCHANDISER
- Should have worked in the retail industry, specializing on merchandise displays, store lay-out and over-all store image

General Qualifications: College Degree Holder, Computer-literate: With high leadership, communication and analytical skills, Multi-tasking; Highly personable

We are likewise pooling applicants for the positions of IT Staff, Merchandiser, Graphic Designer, Warehouse Staff and Marketing Staff

Submit your cover letters & resumes with 2x2 pictures personally at #21 Mapalad St. SFDM, Q.C or email at plainsandprints@yahoo.com Please indicate the position you are applying for

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WE ARE INVITING
CALL CENTER APPLICANTS
FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

CALL CENTER ASSOCIATES

YOU MAY PERSONALLY BRING YOUR
COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ TO THE
Unit 3501 Antel Global Corporate Center
J. Vargas Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. 490-0051
Between 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
E-MAIL: alex@sytop.com

CONTACT POINT

3/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. 910-5181 to 84 | Fax No. 9105175

ContactPoint Outsource Services, Inc. is a customer relationship management company utilizing voice technologies. A spin-off from the call center operations of Pacific Internet Philippines, ContactPoint evolved into a fully operational global outsourcing call center in November 2002.

ContactPoint has now become one of the fastest growing call centers, expanding operations capacity by more than 300% in less than a year's time. Located in the heart of Ortigas Business Center, ContactPoint services US-based clients included in Fortune Top 500 Companies offering complete outbound, inbound, and customer service capabilities to a wide range of businesses and consumer markets.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY HEAD - (PDI-ITH)

THE JOB

- Plans, administers and reviews acquisition, development, maintenance and use of computer, telecommunications systems and network infrastructure.
- Works out current and future IT needs by consulting with people at all levels about the current work systems and deciding how improvements could be made
- Analyzes the information needs of the company and develop technological solutions to satisfy those needs
- Prepares or directs IT policy and plan strategy development
- Directs activities to select and install major IT facilities
- Oversees the provision of training for users and clients
- Directs the integration of IT operations, computer hardware, operating systems, communications, software applications and data processing
- Works out priorities for systems developments, maintenance and operations
- Controls the security aspects of IT systems

QUALIFICATIONS

- Minimum years of experience on the following areas:
  - Applications Development – 3 years
  - Data Center Management – 3 years
  - Project Management – 2 years
- With adequate experience in database administration, network administration, business recovery planning, systems and methods documentation, vendor management.
- With strong people management and conflict resolution skills

Please indicate Job Code on your application letter or e-mail to facilitate processing of your application.

Interested applicants may send or e-mail us at:
31/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
jobs_cp@pacific.net.ph | Fax No. 9105175

You may also visit or call us at www.contactpoint.bz or 910-5181 to 84

LEVEL UP!
levelupgames.ph

Ever dreamed of ruling the world? Well now's your chance.
Help Level Up!, the premier online game publisher
in the Philippines, maintain the virtual
worlds of **Ragnarok** Online. If you're
bright and ambitious, we want to meet you.

We invite applicants for:

CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES

Customer service oriented, with excellent communication skills
Flexible, willing to work on shifting schedules
Preferably knows Ragnarok or has keen interest in MMORPG
Graduate of any four-year course
M/F, not more than 25 years old

CONTENT COORDINATOR/KOREAN TRANSLATOR

Must be proficient in English and Korean Languages
IT knowledge required, preferably has keen interest in RPG/MMORPG
Graduate of any four-year course
M/F, not more than 30 years old

Fresh graduates are also welcome to apply.

This is an urgent requirement. Interested applicants are requested to email resumes at jobs@level-up-games.com
(with the POSITION APPLIED indicated in the subject field)

We are young. We are dynamic.
We seek new blood.

Be part of our growing team.

MARKETING TRAINEES

- not more than 23 years old
- must have a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing or Advertising
- fresh graduates welcome
- must be creative and energetic
- must be familiar with current IT trends and technologies
- possesses excellent communication skills
- fluent in English and Filipino; ability to speak local dialects a plus
- willing to do field work
- must have a pleasing personality

SALES ASSISTANTS

- not more than 28 years old
- must be a graduate of any business-related degree
- willing to do field work
- must be good in public relations
- must be persuasive and energetic
- must have a pleasing personality

PCTrends

Interested applicants may send resumé to:
PC Trends, Incorporated
#35 1st Street, New Manila, Quezon City
or call Tel. Nos.: 727-6449; 727-6142; 727-6217
or email us at: hrd@pctrends.com.ph

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!

2 - PROJECT ENGINEERS
Must be a licensed/BSCE Graduate
2 - MECHANICAL ENGINEERS
1 - CPA

Qualifications
- Male (Single)*, Female (Single)**
- Computer literate
- Must be willing to work under pressure and extra long hours
- Can relate to any level of management
- Applicants must live residing within Marikina, and Cogeo Area

All qualified applicants may submit personally their resumé and other related documents to:

LOIDA B. ACUÑA
Orchids St, Newton Greenheights
Mayamot, Antipolo City 1870
Telephone No. 646-4921

IMMEDIATE HIRING

REGISTERED NURSES

Pls. Call: MS. MERCY FIGUEROA
at 930-4155 and
MS. TESS SEGURA at 935-5262

BERNARDINO GENERAL HOSPITAL
#680 Quirino Hi-way, San Bartolome,
Novaliches, Quezon City
Zabarte Road, Brgy. Kaligayahan
Novaliches, Quezon City

Voluntary Service Overseas sends professional, experienced and qualified international volunteers at the request of non-governmental (NGO), governmental and community-based organisations in the Philippines. 40 professional volunteers are currently working all over the country to strengthen local capabilities and enhance capacities in secure livelihoods, community-based natural resource management, gender & development, peacebuilding, disabilities, and governance.

VSO Philippines is recruiting a PROJECT OFFICER (PO) for its peace building work in Northern Mindanao. The post entails the management of a partnership support fund, some volunteer administration and support, and ensuring the security of staff, volunteers, partnerships and resources.

Skills and experience in the following are essential:

- project assessment, monitoring, and evaluation skills and expertise, including alternative budget analysis and financial monitoring;
- knowledge of volunteer support and administration;
- ability to engage in capability and capacity building activities, especially in project and programme development;
- project documentation and presentation capabilities; including a strong grasp of relevant project data and information and skills in identifying and disseminating 'learning and best practices';
- a sensitivity to security issues and challenges, and a willingness to engage in security monitoring and evaluation;
- sensitivity to partners and partnership needs, including excellent negotiation and bargaining capabilities; and,
- strong people management skills.

Duties and responsibilities for the post include:

- Assisting the Programme Area Manager in developing and implementing a security assessment and management plan for staff and volunteers, and other resources deployed in the PEACE Mindanao project area.
- Assisting the PAM in assessing, monitoring, and evaluating project plans and proposals from partner organizations and other stakeholders.
- Assisting the PAM in volunteer administration and support

The successful applicant will be offered a one year contract, with possibility of extension. Duty station is Iligan City, Lanao del Norte, Mindanao. The applicant should be in post no later than April 15, 2005.

For a full description of the post, please see the VSO web page: www.geocities.com/vsophilippines.

CV's and resumes will not be accepted as applications to this post. Instead, applicants must fill up an electronic VSOP application form available at the website. Please send your completed application form to vsophilippines@yahoo.com

Deadline for submissions : 16:00 hrs, March 4, 2005
Interview date : March 14, 2005

ONLY SHORTLISTED APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED.

Voluntary Service Overseas sends professional, experienced and qualified international volunteers at the request of non-governmental (NGO), governmental and community-based organisations in the Philippines. 40 professional volunteers are currently working all over the country to strengthen local capabilities and enhance capacities in secure livelihoods, community-based natural resource management, gender & development, peacebuilding, disabilities, and governance.

VSO Philippines is recruiting an ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (AO) for its peace building work in Northern Mindanao. The successful applicant will be handling office administration and support services of an EU-funded Peace Mindanao project.

The job requires :

- college degree or at least three (3) years relevant work experience in the NGO sector or in other development organizations with a cross-cultural context
- excellent people management skills, good interpersonal skills, including adequate negotiating and bargaining experience
- effective computer skills, competence in word processing, presentation programmes and techniques (eg., MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint, etc.) and familiarity with internet/email services (Outlook, Internet Explorer, etc.);
- experience in the monitoring of equipment and supplies inventory
- maturity and objectivity, tactfulness and diplomacy, flexibility
- strong communication skills
- willingness to work under pressure and out of hours
- patience, a positive attitude, and a good sense of humor;

The principal duty and responsibility of the AO post is to assist the PEACE Mindanao Programme Area Manager in the administrative management of the project office. This would include the following:

- General office management and administrative support for Peace Mindanao staff and volunteers, which would also include supporting the Finance Officer in monitoring some financial transactions and budget planning;
- Assistance to the Programme Area Manager in the effective use and management of supplies, equipment, and other properties of Peace Mindanao; and,
- Volunteer support in terms of accommodation, travel, medical care, visa renewal, communication, security information.

The successful applicant will be offered a one-year contract, with possibility of extension. Duty station is Iligan City, Lanao del Norte, Mindanao. The applicant should be in post no later than April 15, 2005.

For a full description of the post, please see the VSO web page: www.geocities.com/vsophilippines.

CV's and resumes will not be accepted as applications to this post. Instead, applicants must fill up an electronic VSOP application form available at the website. Please send your completed application form to vsophilippines@yahoo.com

Deadline for submissions : 16:00 hrs, March 11, 2005
Interview date : March 22, 2005

ONLY SHORTLISTED APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED.

Voluntary Service Overseas sends professional, experienced and qualified international volunteers at the request of non-governmental (NGO), governmental and community-based organisations in the Philippines. 40 professional volunteers are currently working all over the country to strengthen local capabilities and enhance capacities in secure livelihoods, community-based natural resource management, gender & development, peacebuilding, disabilities, and governance.

VSO Philippines is recruiting a FINANCE OFFICER (FO) for its peace building work in Northern Mindanao. The successful applicant will be handling the financial aspects of an EU-funded Peace Mindanao project.

The job requires :

- a college or university degree (preferably in an accounting or financial area)
- a minimum of 3 years financial accounting experience, recording and reporting, preparation of financial projections and budgets;
- experience in monitoring and control of equipment and supplies;
- experience working with a development organization with a cross-cultural context;
- strong interpersonal and people management skills
- computer skills – proficiency with Microsoft Office and Windows software with sufficient understanding and experience in using Word and Excel; knowledge of any Accounting software;
- time management skills with ability to handle a very heavy office workload, willingness to work under pressure and work out of hours;
- flexibility - adapting own and others work to the needs of the office;
- maturity and objectivity, assertiveness balanced by tact and diplomacy,
- patience, a positive attitude, and a good sense of humor;
- good communication skills in English, both oral and written;

The principal duty and responsibility of the FO post is to assist the PEACE Mindanao Programme Area Manager in financial management of the project. This would include the following:

- the Day to Day Accounting and Recording of Disbursement and Receipt Transactions
- Cash Monitoring including reconciliation of funds
- Project Finance monitoring as well as conduct financial capability trainings
- Financial reporting to VSOP Finance
- Budget monitoring and translating Peace Mindanao activities by way of financial planning
- Liaising with external organizations – creditors, banks and government agencies, etc.
- Inventory control.

The successful applicant will be offered a one year contract, with possibility of extension. Duty station is Iligan City, Lanao del Norte, Mindanao. The applicant should be in post no later than April 15, 2005.

For a full description of the post, please see the VSO web page: www.geocities.com/vsophilippines.

CV's and resumes will not be accepted as applications to this post. Instead, applicants must fill up an electronic VSOP application form available at the website. Please send your completed application form to vsophilippines@yahoo.com

Deadline for submissions : 16:00 hrs, March 10, 2005
Interview date : March 21, 2005

ONLY SHORTLISTED APPLICANTS WILL BE NOTIFIED.

FIREFLY ELECTRIC & LIGHTING CORPORATION

Exclusive distributor of FIREFLY lighting products and ROYU is in urgent need of

MARKETING MANAGER

Initiate and conceptualize brand building activities Plans and recommends marketing programs and strategies to achieve short and long term company sales goals. With strong business and customer-focused orientation. Highly analytical, flexible and results oriented person. Energetic, self-motivated and must be a team player. At least 5 years work experience in brand management with a proven track record. 28 to 38 years old must be willing to travel. Work experience in a multinational corporation could be an advantage.

MARKETING ASSISTANT

Female, graduate of B.S. Marketing or any business related courses from Ateneo, DLSU, or UP with good scholastic records. Must have at least two years working experience and must possess a high degree of self-confidence. Must be result oriented, proactive, hardworking and willing to travel.

VAN SALESMAN

(Provincial Luzon)

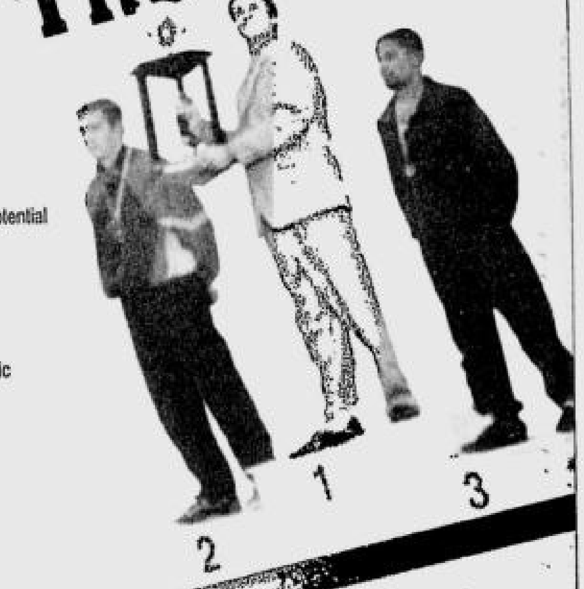
Male 23-33 years old, college graduate, preferably single. At least 2 years working experience in extract sales with proven track record. Working experience as extract salesman for multinational brands could be an advantage. Must be willing to be assigned in different areas, have pleasing personality, untarnished integrity, hardworking, and result oriented. Must be willing to post cash bond or have guarantor.

ACCOUNTING STAFF

Female, 20-28 years old. Graduate of Accounting or any business related courses. Must have above average scholastic records belonging to the top 25% of graduating class, with pleasing personality and high degree of self-confidence. Intelligent, hardworking and honest.

Good compensation package awaits qualified applicants. Please bring or send your resume to Unit 601 to 603 Sky I Tower #68 Dasmariñas St., Binondo Manila. Look for Ms. Joy Kagalingan.

Do You Stand Above The Rest?



We're looking for world-class Sales Managers and Sales Consultants!

Filinvest Land, Inc. (FLI), one of the largest publicly-listed real estate companies in the Philippines, is looking for qualified professionals.

Sales Managers

- With a minimum of two (2) years sales management experience, preferably in real estate, securities, insurance, auto sales, pharmaceuticals or direct selling.
- With excellent leadership skills and can motivate a team to its fullest potential
- With strong interpersonal communication and management skills
- Can immediately organize and mobilize own sales network.
- Preferably Antipolo, Rizal or Quezon City residents.

Sales Consultants

- Must be self-starters, highly motivated, assertive, independent, dynamic and highly personable
- Equipped with strong interpersonal communication skills
- Preferably Antipolo, Rizal or Quezon City residents.

Successful applicants can look forward to receiving

- *above-average commissions*
- *competitive allowance*
- *generous incentives*
- *and excellent marketing support*

FILINVEST
LAND INCORPORATED
www.filinvestland.com

Bring your resume and 2x2 ID picture to:

Human Resource Department
FDC Bldg., 173 P. Gomez St.,
San Juan, Metro Manila
Feb 14 - 18, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
For inquiries, call: 727-0431 local 250.
Look for Vangie Isidro
hrd@filinvestland.com

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mario's
mario's kitchen

We urgently need dynamic & result-oriented people as our:

RESTAURANT MANAGERS

Female, computer literate HRM, Nutrition, Food Tech., or Business Mgmt graduate, 2-5yrs work experience in a reputable rest./hotel, 2 yrs of w/e in a supervisory level. W/ knowledge in menu planning, food product & costing. W/ entrepreneurial, excellent marketing & comm. skills.

CAPTAIN WAITERS

Male, below 35 yrs old, college graduate of any course. W/ 3yrs work experience in fine-dining restaurant/hotel

FOOD PROCESSING ASSISTANT

(Commissary & Bakeshop)

Female, Food Tech or Nutrition grad., w/ at least [illegible] work experience from processing plant, food commissary, quality control. Computer literate, analytical & diligent.

OTHER POSITIONS

COOKS/WAITERS

Qualified applicants may send letter of application/ comprehensive resume w/ ID photo & other credentials to: THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT. – # 608 Calderon St. cor Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City

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IMMEDIATE HIRING

WVH Asia Inc.

(Multimedia Entertainment Company)

- Web & Art Graphic Designers

(professional and/or w/ experience) with knowledge of data base, back end, etc...

Worldwide Venture Holdings Asia, Inc.
3901 Discovery Centre
#25 ADB Ave., Ortigas Centre, Pasig City
Tel. 914-0111 Fax 914-0232

A **Travel Agency** to be opened to the new Robinson's Pioneer Mall in Edsa is looking for competent individuals:

Reservation and Ticketing Agent

- At least 1-2 years experience in a Travel Agency
- Preferable has background in Abacus and knowledge of outbound

Sales Account Executive

- At least 2-3 years experience in a Travel Agency
- In house and on field

Accounting Assistant

- Graduate of Accounting or Computer related course

Sales Manager

- At least 3-5 years experience in a Travel Agency
- Good leadership and Management skills

Submit your resumé at c/o 5/F SM Megamall Bldg. B, Cebu Pacific Air or email at skyteam888@yahoo.com

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A highly progressive company that has pioneered in the theatrical and entertainment industry is looking for bright, capable professionals:

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT SUPERVISOR

- Responsible for the development of new, creative applications of "state of the art" theatrical engineered products. Preferably must posses relevant experience in research and development in the entertainment industry.
- Must be highly creative, possess "out of the box" attitude in driving new ideas.
- Male/female, 25 to 40 years old, with a university degree from a reputable college.
- Knowledge of AUTOCADD is a must.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- Responsible for business development activities for a line of engineered theater products for distribution nationwide.
- Must be experienced in handling sales and business development for a highly targeted, specialized market with charisma to influence a large diversity of people.
- Male/female, 25 to 35 years old, with an engineering degree in a reputable university with 3-5 years sales, background of specialized, engineered products.

We offer salaries and benefits competitive with industry standards. **THIS IS AN URGENT REQUIREMENT.** You may submit your resumés with I.D. picture to: abi@pldtdsl.net

EARN MORE

JOIN OUR SALES GROUP

We are a one-stop automall offering the widest range of popular Korean vehicles complete with parts, accessories and 5-star service facilities.

We're looking for Sales Executives. Handcarry your resume with 2x2 photo, Monday to Friday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Proceed to HRD Department.

HYUNDAI KIA SSANGYONG

Wheels, Inc.
(hrd@wheelsinc.com.ph)

#222 E. Rodriguez Sr., Avenue, Quezon City
(Between Walter Mart and Delos Santos Medical Center)

Maxicare
Healthcare for those you care about

JOIN THE INDUSTRY LEADER

MAXICARE HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

Be part of the impressive roster of one of the premier private healthcare service providers in the country today that is known & committed to being the most admired for its people & services.

SALES & MARKETING MANAGER

- College or advance degree in business, marketing or management disciplines
- Extensive background in sales and marketing management functions with proven strong track records
- Candidate with work background in the following industry is an advantage: HMO, Insurances, Pharmaceutical, any service-oriented organization
- Excellent leadership capability with demonstrable aptitude in motivating and supervising sales force
- Effective communicator at all levels in the organization

CORPORATE ACCOUNTS OFFICERS

- College or advanced degree in business, marketing or management discipline from a reputable Institution
- Excellent negotiation and presentation skills
- Extensive experience in key accounts management with proven strong track records in sales
- Strong leadership capability with demonstrable aptitude in motivating & supervising sales force
- Excellent communication skills

CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES

- Male & Female
- Preferably nursing or medical allied course graduate
- Work-related exposure in an HMO is an advantage
- Good communication skills
- Excellent interpersonal and customer-service orientation
- With pleasing and amiable personality
- Resourceful and team player

CORPORATE-BASED NURSES

(to be based in Metro Mla, Laguna & Cavite)

- Registered Nurse
- With experience as Company Nurse; exposure in HMO an advantage
- Effective, analytical and decision-making skills
- Excellent interpersonal and customer service orientation
- Can work independently under pressure with minimum supervision

COMPETETIVE REMUNERATION PACKAGE AWAITS SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES

Qualified applicants are requested to submit their resume with recent photo & credentials to:

The HR Department
19th Flr. Medical Plaza Bldg. Amorsolo cor. Dela Rosa Sts.
Makati City.
Or email to: car.hrd@maxicare.com.ph
raquel.angeles@maxicare.com.ph

DEMO POWER is a marketing services company that has the most extensive in-store brand activation operations in 7 countries servicing more than 4,000 supermarkets and big multinational companies all over Asia.

Because of our immense growth, **DEMO POWER PHILIPPINES, INC.** *is looking for* ***PROACTIVE, INNOVATIVE, DRIVEN AND RESOURCEFUL CANDIDATES WITH VERY GOOD COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS*** to be part of this young and dynamic company.

Client Service Officer

- 21– 25 years old
- Preferably Marketing, Communications or any business related course graduate from top schools
- Background in events, direct marketing, promotion, planning and/or advertising can be an advantage

Retail Officer

- 26 - 28 years old
- Background in PR work is preferred
- 2 to 3 working experience in a retail industry is an added advantage

Purchaser

- 24 - 30 years old
- 2 to 3 working experience in purchasing
- Very good planning and negotiation skills
- Fast worker, organized and systematic

If you think you have what it takes to be a part of this progressive marketing company, then come and join us!

An exciting and bright future awaits YOU!

Preference will be given to those who will apply in person on Feb. 21,22 & 23. Please bring your comprehensive resume and 2 x 2 picture.

Demo Power Philippines, Inc.
#108 E. Rodriguez St., Libis, Quezon City
Or e-mail at carol.mayari@demo-power.com
Telephone # 6347273 loc 128

DEMO POWER

Company: RENT I.T.

We specialize in providing IT-based solutions, including Business & IT Consultancy, Project Management and Rentals, for today's global community. Servicing top local and multinational companies.

Position:

Senior Relationship Manager

Responsibilities:

Key responsibilities will include identifying new sales opportunities and account management of an existing customer portfolio. Implement and encourage new techniques, using your knowledge gained in I.T. Sales industry to continually improve customer service. Ideal candidate must possess the ability to contribute, to think strategically and demonstrate a proven track record in sales management.

Requirements:

- Male or Female, college Graduate
- Not more than 35 years old
- Experience in I.T. Industry, particularly in Sales of Consumer/Commodity and PC Products (advantage)
- Must have her/his own client base in the I.T. Industry
- Customer Service Oriented and Positive Sales Attitude
- Could work full time with minimal supervision
- Good moral character , pleasing personality
- An expert in contact negotiation and client presentation.
- Must be smart, assertive, resourceful, and self-motivated.
- Must have a strong facilitation and presentation skills as well as excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Must have at least solid 3 years sales and marketing experience.

Interested applicants may send their resumes to:

RENT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INC.
Wine Depot Ayala Ave. Cor. Malugay St., Makati City
Fax: 893-5981 Email: rentit@pacific.net.ph

EIB Securities, Inc. (*e.sec*), a broker-dealer firm, duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc., is in need of an:

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

- Graduate of Bachelor in Accountancy; a professional license is an advantage.
- Solid background in Accounting Stock Brokerage Firm transactions, (e.g., Cash Flow, Bank Reconciliation, Client Balance Monitoring, Disbursements & Collections).
- Knowledge in Net Capital computation, tax filing and other regulatory requirements
- Very familiar in operating computerized Accounting, particularly the BOSS System.
- With pleasant personality, active, a team player, and can work under minimum supervision.

Rush in your resumé until Feb. 22, 2005 to:
EIB SECURITIES, INC.
11/f ExportBank Plaza, ExportBank Drive
corner Chino Roces Ave., Makati City

GROWTH WITH EQUITY IN MINDANAO (GEM) PROGRAM
A Project of the United States Agency for International Development
The General Contractor is THE LOUIS BERGER GROUP, INC.
Tel: (6382) 225-1569 • Fax: (6382) 225-1479
USAID Contract No: 492-C-00-02-00018-00

URGENT REQUIREMENT

GEM Zamboanga Office Area Manager

Employee Classification Code: **PROFESSIONAL**
Unit and Location: **MANAGEMENT / ZAMBOANGA AREA OFFICE**
Person reporting to **GEM PROGRAM MANAGER**
Period of Engagement: **ONE YEAR, RENEWABLE ANNUALLY**

GENERAL PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVE OF THE POSITION

The Area Manager is responsible for the implementation of the Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM2) Program and its sub-projects in the area of responsibility, including the overall supervision of the day to day activities of the area management office.

DUTIES OF THE POSITION

1) **Area Management (60%)**
   - Overall administrative supervision of activities of the area office.
   - Assess the Business Support Organizations (BSOs) current level of organizational and financial viability and level of services extended to their members in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) island provinces of Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, and Zamboanga Peninsula.
   - Provide technical assistance and support to BSOs to achieve organizational and financial sustainability.
   - Coordinate, and on request, provide assistance to other GEM2 Program teams such as the Targetted Commodity Expansion Project (TCEP), Infrastructure, Governance, Education and Policy and the LEAP Program.
   - Support other GEM2 Program activities in the ARMM conflict-affected areas of Mindanao.
   - Provide support to other USAID Programs in the area.
   - Responsible for the implementation of the Special Activities Funds (SAFs) and submit post activity reports after each SAF activity in the area.
2) **Seaweed/Carrageenan Industry Coordination (35%)**
   - Provide technical, coordinative, and advocacy assistance in the development and management of the seaweed/carrageenan industry in Mindanao.
   - Link with key industry players from the private and public sectors in the development and management of the seaweed/carrageenan industry of Mindanao.
3) **Perform other related duties as assigned (5%)**

Minimum Qualifications: College degree with at least seven years experience in project development and management with background in fisheries, aquaculture, agribusiness, rural development and financial management. Proficient in oral and written communications.

Preferred Qualifications: Masteral or doctoral degree; relevant experience in project management and operations of rural development projects funded by donors such as USAID and ADB.

Level of Responsibility: Deal directly with various local and national producers, traders, manufacturers, industry associations and upper management levels of local and national government agencies, the ARMM government and component LGUs and international donors and financing institutions, directly supervise seven area staff, and, administrativelycontrol five infra personnel.

Interested individuals are requested to submit original copies of their letter of interest, statement of experience and qualifications, and salary history addressed to GEM Contracts Manager to the following address:

The Louis Berger Group, Inc. Unit 3, 12/F, ExportBank Plaza, Sen. Gil J. Puyat corner Don Chino Roces Avenues, Makati City 1200. Tel: (02) 812-1647 or fax to GEM Davao office at (082) 225-1479. Deadline of submission is February 21, 2005.

PHILIPPINE

Manila's premier Lifestyle & Society Magazine is looking for:

MARKETING AND EVENTS MANAGER

Female, 30 to 40 years old, with 5 years experience in marketing and events planning. To handle marketing efforts for the magazine and head the new division to cover events management. Very fluent in spoken & written English. Able to plan and implement strategy. Report to the Managing Director.

ACCOUNT MANAGER

Male or Female. Minimum of three years experience in the field of sales & marketing. Must be goal oriented, pro-active, and a team player. Will be reporting directly to the General Manager experience in publication is an advantage.

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Male with solid managerial and art direction skills to lead a small team of designers. With at least 5 years experience in designing upmarket lifestyle publications. Responsibilities include overseeing total design of magazines; ensuring all visual material is well executed, on time and consistent. Must be well versed in all design software including QuarkXpress, Photoshop, Illustrator, Indesign, etc.

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

A certified Public Accountant that will lead the Accounting Department. Should have at least five (5) years experience in a management position. Qualities preferred: Orientation to cost and control, focus to budget adherence and ability to work with team members.

All applications will be kept strictly confidential.

Please send resumé with photo to: **The Publisher**
Philippine Tatler

Address: **Unit 11-A Manila Bank Bldg.,**
6772 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

Emal address: **email@philtatler.com**

NISSAN NORTH EDSA BALINTAWAK

BE PART OF A WINNING TEAM!
2003 BEST DEALER IN SERVICE
2003 BEST IN CUSTOMER SATISFACTION
WE NEED:

MARKETING OFFICER

- Marketing or Communication Arts grad.
- 1-2 years experience
- Basic marketing knowledge
- Experience on promotion, events organization and management
- Quantitative analysis
- Good in oral and written communication
- Aggressive and assertive
- Must have a pleasing personality

SALES PROFESSIONALS/ INSURANCE COORDINATOR

- Male or Female, 21-28 years old
- Dynamic, strong & with pleasing personality
- Chinese speaking is an advantage
- College level; Must know how to drive
- With good oral & written communication skills preferably with selling experience
- Qualified applicants will receive competitive salary
- Plus unlimited commission

Apply in person with comprehensive resumé
& 2x2 photo, Mon.-Fri. at:
1174 EDSA, BALINTAWAK, Q.C.
Tel. # 330-5331 Look for Ms. Fema
e-mail: femapadrones@yahoo.com

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER

East Avenue, Quezon City
is now accepting applications for
Academic Year 2005

I. 3-Year Fellowship Training Program in Adult Cardiology

- 3 years Residency in Internal Medicine accredited by PCP
- PCP Diplomate

II. 1-Year Subspecialty Fellowship Training Program in Electrophysiology, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Non-Invasive Cardiology and Peripheral Vascular

- Have completed Residency Training in Internal Medicine and Fellowship in Cardiology in PCP and PCC acredited Institutions.
- Submit a research proposal
- Certificate of Fellowship

** Deadline for submission of application is on February 28, 2005*
** Academic Year 2005 starts on April 1, 2005*

General Requirements for Application

1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the Weighted General Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation (coming from different Doctors specifically the Training Officer &/ or Director of the previous Training Programs)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2" x 2" picture colored
6. Certificate of Residency in required specialty
7. Specialty Board Certificate in required specialty

Please address your communications to:
JOSE A. YULDE, M.D.
Assistant Director
Office of Education and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

** Deadline for submission of application is on February 28, 2005*
** Academic Year 2005 starts on April 1, 2005*

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion (cp# 09192865303) or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia (cp# 09163021735) with Tel. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

Excitement is in the air!

Business empires and taipans meet and are now ripe with development firsts, creating a storm for the industry for 2005.

NOW IS THE BEST TIME for YOU as a marketing leader to ride on this exciting wave of change for the real estate industry.

We are looking for:

3 Vice President-Trainees and 6 Sales Directors with

- Corporate and entrepreneurial spirit
- Management and leadership skills
- Vision and the passion to reach great heights
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Own car, willingness to travel and undergo special training

...to lead his/her own **Camp John Hay Focus Group**, with all the opportunities/privileges.

Successful applicants will be invited to join the orientation at **EDSA Plaza Hotel.**

Other applicants can handle Newcoast Boracay, Canyon Woods, Splendido, Nasugbu and Tagaytay projects.

Call now for an appointment between February 21-25, 2005 (interview dates) at these numbers: **637-7817; 910-2757; 0917-8438154.**

SUSIE M. YNARES
SVP-The Molave Group

IMMEDIATE HIRING

A CHED approved tertiary graduate academic institution is looking for candidates to fill key positions.

HR ASSOCIATE/OFFICER

- Graduate of any four-year course preferably BS Psychology or BS Business Administration major in Management
- Preferably with four (4) years work related experience
- Impressive oral and written communications skills
- Willing to work extended hours

SECRETARIES

- Graduate of any four-year course preferably BS Psychology with pleasing personality
- Preferably with two (2) years work experience
- Computer literate; proficient typing skills
- Impressive oral and written communications skills
- Research experience a plus factor

CORPORATE AFFAIRS STAFF

- Graduate of any four-year course preferably BS Computer Science or BS Business Administration major in Advertising with pleasing personality
- Preferably with two (2) years work experience
- Computer Literate
- Good oral and written communications skills
- Graphic Arts experience a plus factor
- Willing to work extended hours

FINANCE ASST./SECRETARY ACCOUNTING ENCODER/CLERK

- Female with pleasing personality
- Graduate of BS Accountancy
- Computer literate
- Good oral and written communications skills
- Preferably with accounting related work experience

Applicants may send their resume, 2x2 picture and transcript of records at:

Box No. QC 2005-44
c/o Phil. Daily Inquirer
G/F St. Anthony's Bldg.
891 Aurora Blvd. cor Oxford St., Cubao, Q.C. 1109
or e-mail: colleges_214@yahoo.com

R u ready for higher ground?

Advertising • Graphics • Public Relations

Art Directors
Senior Artists
Visualizers
Copywriters
PR Consultants
Media Relations Officers
Marketing Assistant

*minimum 3 years relevant working experience
college graduate from top universities
25 to 35 years old
with passion for excellence

Send your resume with recent 2x2 photo to.
W 1203-B Philippine Stock Exchange Center,
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

Interviews are strictly by appointment only

Other positions available: Secretary, Accountant
FREELANCERS are welcome to join our pool of creatives.

MARKETING ASSISTANT

Full time job position for Marketing Assistant for a company in the Real Estate Industry.

Successful candidate will receive excellent compensation package.

REQUIREMENTS:

- College Graduate from a reputable University - Business or Marketing related course
- Excellent communications and presentation skills
- Demonstrates creativity to formulate and execute marketing campaign and promotions
- Knowledgeable in Corel Draw, Photoshop, MS Word, Excel & Powerpoint

Call 635-5375 to 77 or 637-0234 to 36 to schedule for interview.

A top Architectural Design Firm is seeking for applicants for the following positions:

- **SENIOR DESIGNER/ JUNIOR DESIGNER**
- **SITE ARCHITECT** - Willing to be assigned for out of town posts

  Applicant must be a graduate of a reputable architecture school, with proficient design, graphics, 3D, and good communication skills
- **SITE FOREMAN** - With experience in finishing works

Interested parties must apply in person at:

10/F Unit A, Strata 2000 Bldg.
Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Call Tel. Nos. 631-6571 to 77 for interview.

UMALAG FARMS, INC.
Is looking for Top-Notch
ASSISTANT RANCH MANAGER and RANCH MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

JOB DESCRIPTION:

- ✓ Supervises overall operation of the cattle ranch. The operation includes but is not limited to: perimeter security, fenceline and ranch road maintenance, native and improved pasture maintenance, herd rotation, etc.
- ✓ Oversees administrative functions such as purchasing, warehousing, and personnel management, among others.
- ✓ Implements ranch special projects such as development of improved pastures, etc.
- ✓ Implements standard operating procedures and controls on herd management.
- ✓ Supervises generation of accurate cattle production reports.
- ✓ Implements a balanced ranch operating budget.
- ✓ Oversees support operations such as feedlot and the dairy and horses farms.
- ❖ ***We are looking for a field type hands-on manager, not an office-bound manager.***

BASIC QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- o ***For Assistant Ranch Manager***. Minimum 10 years supervisory experience in cattle ranch operation.
- o Must have a degree in Animal Husbandry or Agribusiness from UP Los Baños.
- o Must live in ranch premises (located 1 ½ hours from Cagayan De Oro Airport); preferably Mindanao-based.
- o Must be computer literate.
- o Familiar with latest technology in cattle breeding and herd management.

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND THEIR RESUME WITH PICTURE AND TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS TO:

THE RECRUITMENT MANAGER
(CODE: CONFIDENTIAL)
80 Roces Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

Elite Garments International, Inc.

owner and manufacturer of established brand names for the local and export market

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JR. FASHION MERCHANDISER

- * Loves fashion & knows current trends in ladieswear
- * Will be involved in design dev't & retail merchandising
- * W/artistic background,at least 2-3 yrs work experience
- * Mature, with leadership capabilities
- * Female, below 30 yrs. old, w/ courses in Fine Arts, Advertising, Marketing, Graphic Arts, Fashion Design & related courses

Send resume with credentials or fax/e-mail to:
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT. (HRD)
996 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St.(Vito Cruz) Malate, Manila
Tels. #525-3593/523-0957 Fax # 521-36-71
E-mail: maye@elitegarments.com

A Fast growing Export company urgently needs an:

ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGER & RND

- ► **Male or Female**
- ► **With vast knowledge and experience in the processing of Carrageenan, Gulaman and Sago**
- ► **Good organizing ability**
- ► **Able to work independently with greater responsibility**
- ► **Flexible, people/result-oriented, strong drive to handle job pressures**
- ► **Adept in verbal and written communication**

Attractive compensation awaits qualified applicant.
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5 STAR HOTELS

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RESTAURANT HOSTESSES
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F&B SECRETARY(F)

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DEMI CHEFS – HOTEL EXPERIENCE
CHEFS – TEPPANYAKI/SUSHI/INTERNATIONAL
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HEALTH & RECREATION / ENGINEERING

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MANICURISTS(F)
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ELECTROMECHANIC MAINTENANCE 2 yrs. Exp.

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GUEST SERVICE AGENTS(F)
TRAINING COORDINATOR(M/F)
GUEST RELATIONS EXEC.(F)
RECEIVING CLERK(M,2yrs.exp.)

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ROOM ATTENDANTS(F)
HOUSEKEEPING SUPVSRS(M/F)
EXEC. HOUSEKEEPERS(M/F)
PUBLIC AREA CLEANERS(M/F)

All applicants must be w/pleasing personality & fluent in English. Height requirement is min 5'2 for females and 5'6 for males. Experience in hotels & exclusive restaurant preferred. Age must be below 35 y/o. Please apply personally with 4 pcs. 2x2photos & 4pcs full body in business attire, 2 sets of resume, diploma, employment and training certificates.

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ATTENTION : RNs to IRELAND with IELTS / TOEFL

Dublin Children's General Hospital needs:
120 Nurses urgently needed with:

- **Minimum of 3 years recent experience in: Pediatric, Neonatal ICU or General Nursing**
- **To be eligible, you must have EITHER:**
  - **IELTS overall band score of 6.5** or **TOEFL score of 207**
  - **Speaking band score of 6.0**

10 Doctors with experience in:
Medical/Surgical, General/ Family practice, Internal Medicine, Neurology, Psychiatry and OB

URGENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN SINGAPORE
NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED with possibility of Permanent Residency Status

TATA Consulting Services PTE. needs:
Must be willing to be assigned in the US, Australia, Japan, Taiwan & China

Network Administrator
- should have Desk Top Windows configuration & admin experience including user support in Help Desk mode; w/ Microsoft Windows or Network Administration certification (CCNA, etc.) or w/ Unix Administration skills

Infrastructure Development & Maintenance Support Personnel
- with experience in providing operator support in a help desk environment

Consultants/Implementors (Oracle)
- with experience in Oracle Financial, Supply Chain Management and Customer Relationship Management, applications (Oracle-PeopleSoft)

***fluent in reading and writing Japanese; has excellent English communication skills**

Data Warehousing – ETL Consultants
-With at least 2 years experience in Informatica preferably in a bank; with at least 5 yrs total IT experience; with exposure to other DW ETL tools
Java Programmers
IT Auditors

Happy House (Dealer of Hallmark, Friends Forever, Hello Kitty) needs:

Retail Managers
- Should come from the same industry with at least 3 years experience in the same capacity

Shop Managers
- Female with a university degree; with at least 3 yrs experience; has supervised at least 2 counter sales staff; should have excellent customer service skills

Counter Sales Personnel
- Female; should have excellent communications skills and pleasing personality; with experience handing counter sales in big department stores

URGENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN the MIDDLE EAST
more vacancies are posted in our website www. principalia.com

Al Fardan Group in Qatar needs:

Executive Secretary to the Gen Manager
Very presentable 25-30 yr old female; w/ excellent organizational & communication skills
Personal Accountant for the President
General Accountant
Male /female; 25-30 yrs old; with excellent comm and analytical skills; auditing background
Nurse – male; 24 to 30 yrs old; 3 yrs co. nurse
Technical Engineer /Maintenance Engineer
Foreman / Electrician / Plumber
Should be 25-30 yrs old; have 5-10 years experience working in commercial high rise buildings or subdivisions; w/ good comm. skills

Dubai General Contractors in Dubai :

Construction Managers
Site / Project / Civil / Planning Engineers
MEP Engineers/Coordinators
Safety Managers / Safety Officers
Foremen
- with at least 5 yrs exp in high rise construction

Abahsain Cope S.A. Ltd. in KSA needs :

Maintenance (Electrical and Mechanical)
Male, 25-35 yrs old; grad of Electrical Technology, 3-5 yrs exp as industrial electrician & in electronics control systems; with mechanical & pneumatic background; can interpret schematic diagrams

QC Inspectors
Male, 25-35 yrs old; BS Electrical Engineering ; with 3-5 years experience in quality related inspection in manufacturing; has knowledge of galvanizing inspection; Autocad Operation is an advantage

Machinists (Tool & Die Maker)
Mechanical Tech grad; 3-5 yrs experience in design & fabricating tools & dies; with metal manufacturing background & knowledge in conventional lathe, surface grinder & milling machines

QA Coordinators
BS in Electrical Engineering; exp in Quality Assurance responsibilities & procedures; knowledge in Autocad; knowledge in ISO 9000 Standards & implementation; with manufacturing background

Apply personally or send the following documents filed in a long white folder: resume with a detailed description of your current/recent job, 3 pcs 2x2 picture & photocopy of passport, certificates/license; encoded resume in 3½ floppy diskette in Word format.

PRINCIPALIA, INC.
4th Flr MG Bldg. 150 Amorsolo St. Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. No. 8151070/20 extn. 101 Email : hrd@principalia.com or apply at our website www.principalia.com
POEA-596-LB-061004-R Beware of Illegal Recruiters For Manpower Pooling only No Fees to be collected.

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Product Manager (Linux Software)
-M/F, 3-5 yrs exp in software mktg, channels program, leadership skills, to grow linux business
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-female, pleasing personality, good English, self confident, smart, to handle telco accounts
Crystal Reports & VB Programmer
Red Hat Linux Technical Consultant

Touch Solutions Inc (Red Hat Phils)
9/F Jafer Place, 19 Eisenhower St Greenhills S.J.
robinsonq@touchgroup.net / rob_qua@yahoo.com
www.touchgroup.net

A Competitive company specializing in servicing the bakery needs of supermarkets, hotels, hospitals & other food establishments is looking for a competent

Food Science/ Food Technology Graduate

to head our R & D and Quality Control departments and grow with the company. Experience in the food and baking industry is preferred.

Duties include: formulation of new products, improving current items, product costing, and standardizing manufacturing & quality control procedures.

If interested, please call 632-9769 / 637-8258 or send your resume to Coating Industries of the Philippines Compound Sheridan Street, Mandaluyong City

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

PROJECT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST (Private Sector)

An International development organization has an immediate need for a PROJECT MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST who will serve as Private Sector Development Specialist in designing and managing private sector activities of the organization. He/She will work in collaboration with the entire team and will serve as a member of the Private Sector sub-team. The incumbent will be responsible for promoting sound decision making concerning the provision of family planning services, as well as supporting AIDS/HIV/STD and tuberculosis prevention utilizing private sector approaches; for the over-all success of private sector programs in concert with the whole team; for evaluating and monitoring public sector policies that affect the private sector; for keeping the partners and the Private Sector Team Leader, informed of the latest changes in local level laws and systems as they relate to the private sector delivery of family planning and other public health services; and, for coordinating with senior government and private sector officials regarding organization's programs and projects in the private sector and will backstop other Specialists whose work includes activities that have substantial private sector involvement. Performs other related duties as may be required. Minimum educational requirement is completion of a Bachelor's degree or the Philippine equivalent in a field relevant to commercial health systems such as health or hospital administration, public and business administration, marketing, economics and other related fields. Advanced educational qualifications i.e. M.A., M.B.A., M.S., etc. will be taken into account in considering the candidates. From five (5) to seven (7) years of progressively responsible, professional-level experience in private health care institutions or health related commercial activities. Previous experience working in Philippine government or donor organizations may substitute for 3 years of required private/commerical sector experience. Excellent command of English (both written and oral), computer skills, and ability to develop and deliver professional quality reports and presentations are essential. Strong interpersonal and teamwork skills.

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan are offered.

Interested persons should send their application letter and comprehensive resume, **not later than March 4, 2005**, to :

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

AUDITOR

A foreign assistance organization has an immediate need for an AUDITOR. The successful candidate will be responsible for auditing the programs and operations of the organization in the Philippines and other Asian countries. He/She will serve as an auditor with responsibility for conducting assigned audits of the organization's financial, program,and management activities. The position will require the auditor to participate as a full member of an audit team and may at the discretion of the Audit Manager, serve as a lead auditor on selected audits. The incumbent will survey entities to be audited to determine aspects most appearing to require audit and determine the scope of the audit; develop detailed audit programs, planning and scheduling elements to be examined and precise steps to be followed in conducting the audit; review applicable laws, regulations, procedures, and other relevant material; collect and verify data relative to financial transactions, programming and planning, procurement practices, inventory controls, project implementation and monitoring, and other aspects of the entity's organization and operations; develop working papers and other supporting documentary evidence; prepare well-written draft reports presenting audit findings, conclusions and recommendations for review by supervisor; confer with senior officials to discuss audit findings and recommendations; follow up on related audit recommendations and assess appropriateness of corrective actions taken by audited entities. Minimum educational requirement is completion of a Bachelor's degree in accounting, finance, computer science, or business administration. Completion of some postgraduate study is highly desirable. Possession of the host-country equivalent of a CPA is desirable. At least five years experience in professional accounting or auditing. Former experience with government and other donor organizations would be highly desirable. An excellent command of English (both written and oral) is essential.

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan are offered. The employment contract is for one-year, which may be extended for up to two additional years subject to availability of funds.

Interested persons should send their application letter and comprehensive resume, **not later than March 4, 2005**, to :

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

IMMEDIATE HIRING

A Clark based knit export manufacturer needs the ff:

SEWING SUPERVISOR

- Female
- Below 40 years old
- 7-10 years related work experience
- Work experience abroad, preferred
- Knowledge in operation b/d, quota, line balancing and target output.

FINISHING/PACKING SUPERVISOR

- Below 40 years old
- 7 years related work experience
- Work experience in USA brand garment, preferred
- Knowledge in revising, pressing, packing, loading and packing list preparation.

SEWING MECHANIC

- Male
- Below 40 years old
- 7 years related work experience
- Knowledge in automatic & computerize sewing machine.

Please mail your resumé with picture and salary to:
Room LG56, Cityland Dela Rosa Condominium
Dela Rosa Street, Pio Del Pilar, Makati City 1250

KYTTAS Personnel Providers, Inc.
Unit 1408 Cityland 10 Tower I, Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. No 8113181 Fax No 8944831 Email Add kyttas@edsamail.com.ph

DOLE NCR LIC NO.: M-02-00-209

URGENT JOB OPPORTUNITIES

with or without experience:
graduates of the following:

Accountancy, any Business related courses, Psychology, IT related courses, Engineering, Mass Communications, Japanese speaking Filipinos, Cantonese speaking Filipinos.

Opening for Rank and File and Managerial Positions

Interested applicants may email their resumé to
kyttas@edsamail.com.ph or may deliver it to Unit 1408
Cityland 10, Tower I, HV Dela Costa corner Valero St.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Interview Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Rapu Rapu Processing is currently constructing a modern gold/copper/silver/zinc treatment facility on the island of Rapu Rapu via Legaspi in Albay Province.

Rapu-Rapu Processing Inc.

With operations commencing mid 2005 we are seeking suitably qualified and experienced personnel as follows, reporting to the site based Supply Superintendent.

PURCHASING OFFICERS (2)

One position is Manila based and one is Site based. With prime responsibility for daily procurement activities, pre-requisite qualification and skills include;

- Graduate in Engineering or Commerce,
- At least 5 years senior experience in procurement, preferably with good knowledge of importation procedures, and with experience in either engineering, manufacturing, mining or construction industry,
- Strong negotiation skills, a thorough approach, and able to establish working relationships with suppliers and with customers at the site, and
- Must be familiar with computerised purchasing and inventory systems.

SENIOR WAREHOUSE OFFICER

With prime responsibility for warehousing activities at Site, pre-requisite qualifications and skills include;

- Graduate or other substantial training in engineering or mechanical discipline,
- At least 5 years senior experience in warehousing for heavy equipment spare parts in engineering, manufacturing, mining or construction industry,
- Strong leadership qualities, and
- Must be very familiar with computerised inventory systems and have a good eye for detail and accuracy.

Preferred candidates will be subject to pre-employment checks. You must be committed to health and safety, have excellent communication and coaching skills, and have proven ability to operate in a dynamic (best practice) work place.

Please send your application letter and resume with id photo to:

The Commercial Manager
Rapu Rapu Processing, Inc
P.O. Box 36
Legaspi City, Albay

ENCLOSURE SYSTEMS SPECIALISTS, INC.

A leading supplier of imported Industrial Enclosures for Power Generation, Process Plants, Food Products Mfg., Information Technology and Telecoms...

URGENTLY NEEDS

THREE (3) ACCOUNT MANAGERS

TO SELL OUR RITTAL INDUSTRIAL ENCLOSURES, PHOENIX CONTACT, PEPPERS CABLE GLANDS AND OTHER PRODUCT BRANDS TO INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL USERS.

- Male/Female at least 25 yrs of age, computer literate
- Good command of English, ability to conduct presentations and interface with senior management.
- Excellent customer service orientation, dynamic, self-motivated and with positive sales attitude.
- Proven, substantiated track record in sales
- Having a car would be an advantage.

An engineering course and IT-related degree with at least 3 years sales experience in a process plant environment and in the IT industry respectively is an advantage.

The successful candidate can look forward to a Guaranteed Monthly Pay, Benefit Package, Allowances, Performance-based Commission and other incentives.

Please send your comprehensive resume to:
Human Resource Department
Email: gardex@mozcom.com
Fax no.: 818-5006

WANTED

SALES MANAGER

- To manage technical sales representative in the sale and promotion of laboratory equipment
- Preferably with experience in the sale of laboratory equipment
- Result oriented

TECHNICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE

- Graduate in Biochemistry, Chemistry, Biology, Medical Technologist, Food Technology, Microbiology Chemical/Mechanical Engineering, Electron Microscopy
- Enjoys traveling and good work ethics
- To sell and promote laboratory equipment (with possible training abroad)

SERVICE MANAGER

- To manage the technical engineers in the repair of laboratory equipment

LABORATORY INSTRUMENT REPAIR ENGINEER

- Electronics and Communications Engineer, Material Science Engineer, Refrigeration Engineer

ARCHITECT / PLANT SUPERVISOR

- Preferably with knowledge in AutoCad

PROVINCIAL DISTRIBUTORS OF COLE-PARMER AND OTHER PHILAB PRODUCTS in the following locations:

- Northern Luzon, Southern Luzon, Bicol Region, Visayas, Mindanao, Central Luzon

Please bring your photo and bio-data with transcript of records:

PHILAB INDUSTRIES, INC.
7487 Baglikan Street, San Antonio Village, Makati City
Telephone: 890-8277/895-9101 E-mail: makati@philab.net

AN IATA ACCREDITED TRAVEL AGENCY NEEDS THE FOLLOWING IMMEDIATELY

TICKETING STAFF

- With at least 2 yrs. ticketing experience in an IATA agency
- Preferably single, Male or Female
- Of good moral character, responsible and dependable
- Graduate of any 4 year course
- Proficient with ABACUS & AMADEUS CRS

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

- With at least 2 years experience in a travel agency
- Knowledgeable in computer language
- With good decision making skills, initiative, independent and dependable
- Male or Female

COUNTER SALES

- Pleasing personality, of good moral character
- Graduate of any 4 year course
- Willing to train and learn fast
- Must have good communication skills
- Travel agency experience an advantage but not necessary

Email resumé to: amazon@skylnet.net or mail to:

c/o Box No. KA-027-05-05MD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F Trinity, Bldg.
636 T.M. Kalaw St.,
Ermita, Manila

Rapu Rapu Processing, Inc. is a Philippine company with foreign participation from an Australian and Korean Company.

The Rapu Rapu Mineral Resource will support an initial six (6) year mine life comprising an open cut mining pit, gold and base metals processing plants. The mine will produce approximately 10,000 tonnes of copper in concentrates, 14,000 tonnes of zinc in concentrates, 50,000 ounces of gold and 600,000 ounces of silver annually.

Rapu-Rapu Processing Inc.

The mine is currently under construction on the island of Rapu Rapu approximately 40 km offshore from Legaspi in Albay Province. This exciting new project is entering the recruitment phase and is seeking applications from persons to be involved in the commissioning, development and operation of a modern gold and base metals mine.

Applications are called from people experienced in all facets of mineral processing or similar industries.

The gold plant is due for commissioning in May 2005 with the base metals plant due for commissioning in August 2005.

A number of positions are available.

Shift Supervisors – Ore Processing

These positions will be responsible for the operation of the processing plants on shift. Reporting to the Plant Production Superintendent they will be responsible for operating the plant to designated parameters and achieving target results whilst operating in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

Applicants should have previous experience in the operation of mineral processing circuits and equipment or similar, supervisory experience and be prepared to working on a continuous shift roster.

Applicants with experience in crushing, grinding, CIL and base metals flotation are particularly sought and applicants with professional qualifications in Metallurgical Engineering will be highly regarded.

Process Operators – Ore Processing

These positions will be responsible for the operation of designated sections of the processing plants on shift. Reporting to the Shift Supervisors they will be responsible for operating their sections to designated parameters and for achieving target results whilst operating in a safe and environmentally sound manner.

Ideally applicants should have previous experience in the operation of mineral processing equipment and circuits or similar and be prepared to working on a continuous shift roster. Those with experience in crushing, grinding, CIL and base metals flotation are particularly sought.

The above positions will attract the following employee benefits:

- Permanent employment status following a probationary period
- Generous salary package
- Full board and lodging, free of charge whilst on site
- Travel allowance for each scheduled shift leave break
- Clothing and safety equipment provision
- Personal accident and health insurance
- Generous annual and sick leave entitlements
- Successful applicants will gain significant training and experience in mineral processing operations

Applications may be lodged as detailed below:

Written applications to be forwarded to:

The Manager Metallurgy
Rapu Rapu Processing, Inc.
Suite 21, Legaspi Suites
178 Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village
Makati City 1229

E-mail applications to:

val.beniuk@rrpi.com.ph
Phone: 09189069071

TETRA TECH EM INC.

An environmental consulting company headquartered in Chicago, invites qualified candidates to apply for the position of:

FINANCIAL MANAGER

For its Philippine branch office

The Financial Manager will be responsible for the financial and accounting components of the company. He or she will be a key member of the executive management team helping the organization by highlighting its financial performances, providing financial analysis and recommendations, budgeting and forecasting, managing internal and external audits, cash management, cost component preparation for bids and proposals, project cost monitoring, profitability reports; assuring compliance with the reportorial requirements of funding agencies (USAID, World Bank, ADB, etc.) and the Philippine government regulatory commissions (Bureau of Internal Revenue, SEC, etc.).

The qualified candidate should have:

- A Degree in Accountancy/Finance
- CPA; MBA preferred
- Minimum of 5 years extensive work experience in financial management and supervisory capabilities
- Relevant experience working with USAID projects
- A strong ability to establish and utilize a computerized financial system, including familiarity with MS Excel, MS Word and Platinum Accounting System
- Excellent written and verbal skills

Tetra Tech offers a competitive salary and a fringe benefits package.

Please send your resumé with your application letter and transcript of records not later than March 4, 2005 to:

Judy Despi
Tetra Tech EM Inc.
18-Floor, OMM-CITRA Building
San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City

KING SAUD UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY

URGENTLY NEEDED:

X-RAY TECH
DENTAL LAB. TECH.
(Male and Female)

EXPERIENCED REQUIRED: Must have Bachelor's degree in Radiology from Allied Medical School. Must have three (3) years minimum experience. Must be knowledgeable in handling procedures for Peripheral arterial disease. Must be able to handle Duplex Scan and Doppler study for arteries and vein.

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS must submit detailed resumé with job descriptions, certificates of employment/training, diploma and transcript of records, board license / certificate (if any). No Objection Certificate (NOC) (for ex-Saudi) and one (1) piece picture, between 8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION
MANPOWER REGISTRY DIVISION, WINDOW I
Ground Floor, Blas F. Ople Bldg., (formerly POEA Bldg.)
Left Wing Lobby
EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave., Mandaluyong City

REPRESENTATIVES OF KING SAUD UNIVERSITY WILL CONDUCT INTERVIEW ON THE SECOND WEEK OF MARCH 2005

ACCOUNTANT/BOOKKEEPER

Qualifications :

- M/F must be Accounting Grad.
- Must be familiar in a corporate environment setting and have excellent communication/public relation skills. Proficiency with the Internet, Excel, Word and especially Quickbooks is essential. Experance working in mining/general contracting company is a plus. Applicant who are able to drive and do field works will be highly considered. Min. of 3 yrs. experience is required. CPA is an advantage. Pls. bring resume with picture at 73- 7th Avenue Cubao, Q.C. or email at *atlanticmines@yahoo.com* Tel. 9115216, 09179005771.

VSO BAHAGINAN

Sharing skills
Changing lives

VSO Bahaginan, the National Partner Agency of VSO in the Philippines, offers a unique opportunity for Filipino professionals to share their skills with some of the world's most disadvantaged people in other developing countries. It also supports national volunteering by building partnerships to strengthen and build the capacities of local volunteer organizations in the Philippines, and in the Southeast Asia.

We are currently looking for a **PROGRAMME MANAGER (Job Code: PM)** to manage the development of an effective international volunteer management programme.

Accountability:
The Programme Manager (PM) will be responsible to the VSO Bahaginan Director.

Responsibilities of the PM post include:

- **Volunteer Sending Programme Management**
  Work closely with VSO International Recruitment to manage the development of VSO Bahaginan's programme on volunteer recruitment, selection, placement, training and resettlement to achieve the most dynamic and cost-effective match between the needs of VSO's overseas programs, recruitment and funding opportunities that exist in the Philippines.
- **Programme and Partnership Development**
  Liase with Country Programme Offices / International Programme Group and other parts of VSO to identify and develop possible partnership possibilities in support of the volunteer sending programme
- **Human Resource Management (Volunteer Sending Programme)**
  Directly line-manage the volunteer sending programme team that includes recruitment, selection, training, supervision, support and appraisals of Programme Officers.
- **Finance & Administration**
  Monitor budget related to volunteer sending programme and development of annual VSO Bahaginan budget in collaboration with other managers; manage annual targets and workplans; manage medical and health programming aspects of volunteer sending programme, including both overseas and resettlement programme.
- **Others Tasks**
  Assist the Director in managing all aspects of VSO Bahaginan's work to ensure that the organisation's policies and practices, especially with respect to financial and human resource management, comply with agreed VSO management standards and established best practices in the Philippines.

To manage the key responsibilities, the successful candidate should possess the following qualities:

- Minimum 5 years relevant work experience, preferably with voluntary sector;
- At least 5 years experience in supervising and leading a team;
- Preferably worked in a multi-cultural environment and international organization;
- Has experienced working with diverse cultural team and international organization;
- Knowledge and skill in programme development and funding;
- Excellent communication skills, good command of English language is essential;
- Possess very good writing and verbal presentation skills;
- Willing and able to make decisions;
- Able to work effectively with minimum supervision;
- Possess strong initiative and is resourceful;
- Computer literate;
- Excellent time management skills; and
- Willing and able to travel.

Application Closes : **28 February 2005**
Interview Date : **11 March 2005**
Position Starts : **01 May 2005**

For a full description of the post, please visit www.vsobahaginan.org.ph. CVs and resumes will not be accepted as applications to this post. Instead, interested applicants must accomplish the VSO Staff Application Form, which could be downloaded at the VSO Bahaginan website. All applicants should also write an explanatory note (no longer than two paragraphs totaling to 6-8 sentences) for each of the above essential qualifications, explaining why you believe you possess the qualities required for this post. Failure to send explanatory notes will disqualify the applicant.

Please send accomplished VSO Staff Application Form and specify the Job Code (PM) to

The Director at bahaginan@vsoint.org

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.
VSO Bahaginan is an equal opportunity employer.

MANILA BASED MANAGERIAL POSITIONS

Our Company is in joint venture with a leading global resources firm to deliver on a project development in Surigao. We are recruiting highly qualified persons for the following Manila-based positions and are willing to conduct project site visits:

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Reporting to the President, responsible for developing, implementing and maintaining financial framework to safeguard and manage commercial interests. Key responsibilities will be:

- Lead and review all service and supply contracts for the Company
- Prepare consolidated financial plans and monitor budgets on a regular basis
- Liaise with Government and regulatory agencies to ensure all of our financial obligations are met

Aside from Project and finance management experience, tertiary qualifications are preferred in a commercial, financial or legal disciplines, with impeccable ethics and integrity and will not compromise on business conduct and safety. It is expected that you have high communications skills as well computer literacy in related field.

COMMERCIAL & PLANNING MANAGER

Reporting to the President, responsible for corporate planning, formulation of control and monitoring systems and coordinating equipment and materials procurement. Key responsibilities will include:

- Takes part in technical and financial planning, developing and implementing project schedule and cost reporting mechanisms
- Plan and manage ore sales as well as coordination of shipments with buyer
- Assist in the preparation of contractual agreements for Company projects
- Advise management team of costing trends, scheduling and variation issues

Preference would be for candidates with tertiary qualifications in geology and mining disciplines and those with exposure in a similar commercial and planning role. High communications skills and proficiency in computing is a must.

Applications with resumes may be e-mailed until 25th February '05 to **rahayes@qnl.com.au**

'TAKE YOUR CAREER TO NEW HEIGHTS'

A Dynamic and Leading Japanese Multinational Company belonging to the Top 1000, manufacturing pressed metal and precision plastic molding parts certified to ISO 9001 & 14001, is looking for qualified management personnel to boost its 10 years operation at the Mactan Economic Zone (Cebu).

General Affairs Manager Trainee

☐ Female, not more than 40 years old
☐ Native of Cebu or surrounding provinces
☐ Graduate of any related 4 to 5 year course or higher attainment
☐ 5 years or more experience in general office management, in a supervisory or managerial level
☐ Excellent communication and organizational skills

HR Manager Trainee

☐ Female, not more than 40 years old
☐ Native of Cebu or surrounding provinces
☐ Graduate of any related 4 to 5 year course or higher attainment
☐ At least 5 years experience (preferably HR, Payroll or Finance)
☐ Excellent oral and written communication skills
☐ Has strong interpersonal and organizational skills
☐ Experienced in training and recruitment
☐ Good attention to details

Production Manager Trainees

☐ Male and Female
☐ Native of Cebu or surrounding provinces
☐ Not more than 40 years old
☐ Graduate of any Engineering course
☐ With 3-5 years experience in a supervisory or managerial position
☐ Excellent analytical, planning, organizational and communication skills
☐ Higher computer proficiency
☐ Knowledgeable in ISO Procedures
☐ Flexible and customer –oriented

Excellent remuneration and advancement package will be offered to qualified applicants.

Send your Application Letter, TOR, and Resume to:

c/o **Philippine Daily Inquirer (Classifieds)**
Code: 0220 MP-CEBU
PDI Bldg corner Mascardo and Yague Streets,
Pasong Tamo, Makati City
Or email at: **hiring_cebu@yahoo.com**

Prompt communications will be sent for corresponding interviews to be held in Manila and Cebu.

CONTRACT PUBLISHING AND MARKETING INC., a fast-growing company engaged in the creation of print communications materials is in need of young, passionate individuals for the following positions:

C • P • M • I

CONTRACT
PUBLISHING &
MARKETING, INC.

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT/WRITER

(National Capital Reg – Makati City)

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Participate in editorial brainstorms for upcoming issues.
- Supporting editorial staff in all activities leading to a publication, including acting as a personal assistant to commissioning editors and overseeing tasks such as issuing contracts and dealing with royalties;
- Negotiating and monitoring timescales for stages in the publishing process by liaising with writers, photographers, printers, designers and production teams;
- Dealing with the administration of work commissioned to freelance writers, picture researchers, photographers, stylists and illustrators to make sure all deadlines are met.
- Organizing and researching projects to tight deadlines;
- Summarizing written material; Correcting manuscripts;
- Obtaining rights to use materials from other publications;
- Using computers for word processing, desktop publishing and e-mail.
- Writing articles and reports; amending articles; collating the work of several authors.
- Sourcing freelancers or other authors to produce new materials; In-charge of all outsourced materials including articles, illustrations, etc.
- Assisting with the art direction and design of publications
- Do research and produce articles assigned by higher editors.
- Writing own material.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Candidates must possess at least a Bachelor's Degree in Literature, Journalism, Mass Communications, Liberal Arts or any related field.
- Applicants must be at least 21 years old.
- Applicants must be highly organized and creative to suggest story ideas and write feature articles.
- Applicants must have good people skills, detail-oriented and focused on deadlines.
- Applicants must be able to work well under pressure and have a high sense of urgency.
- Excellent English communication skills a must.
- Applicants must be willing to work in Makati City.
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or,hold relevant residence status.
- Preferably 1 yr experienced employees specializing in Journalist/Editor or equivalent.
- Full-Time position available.

BOOKKEEPER

(National Capital Reg - Makati City)

REQUIREMENTS:

- Female, must be at least 22 years old.
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Finance/Accountancy/Banking/Economics or equivalent.
- Preferably 1-2 yrs experience as an employee specializing in Finance - General/Cost Accounting or equivalent.
- Must be hardworking, analytical, and assertive
- Computer Literate and must be knowledgeable in MS Excel and other applications
- Fluent in English with good communication and Interpersonal skills
- Highly organized and attentive to detail
- Self-starter, and can work under pressure
- Honest and dependable
- Willing to extend long hours, can work under pressure and with minimum supervision
- Highly motivated and results-oriented
- Fast learner, can juggle multiple tasks, and work independently.
- Applicants must be willing to work in Makati City.
- Full-Time position available

ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVE

(National Capital Reg – Makati City)

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Responsible for prospecting new accounts or advertising markets
- Locate and contact potential clients in order to offer advertising services.
- Explain to customers how specific types of advertising will help promote their products or services in the most effective way possible.
- Prepare and deliver sales presentations, prepare promotional plans, sales literature, and media kits to new and existing customers.
- Prepare sales proposals & contracts for advertisers;
- Prepare reports regularly on sales/ marketing plans and monthly sales report.
- Attend sales meetings, consult with company officials, sales departments, and advertising agencies in order to develop promotional plans.
- Maintain an advertiser database and foster good relationships with them while developing new accounts.
- Process all correspondence and paperwork related to accounts. May perform collection duties if necessary.
- Provide clients with estimates of the costs of advertising products and services.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Female, 25-35 yo
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree In Business, Marketing, Communications or equivalent.
- Applicants must be willing to do field work
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status.
- Preferably with more than 2 yrs experience in Advertising Sales.
- Extensive contacts among Brand Managers and Media Buyers a plus.
- Applicants should be aggressive and resourceful.
- Applicants must be flexible, trustworthy, hardworking and can deal well with pressure.
- Applicants must be willing to work in Makati City.
- Full-Time position available

We are looking for young, dynamic, committed and very talented individuals who have excellent communication skills and the passion for work.

Please note that only qualified applicants will be notified.

Please forward your resume to:

CONTRACT PUBLISHING AND MARKETING INC.
607 MANILABANK BLDG., 6772 AYALA AVE.,
MAKATI CITY

Fax No. **3250481**
Email : **cpmi@eastern.com.ph**
Tel. No. **8400250/51**
Contact person : **Ms. Claren Mendoza**

SGV & Co.

A MEMBER PRACTICE OF ERNST & YOUNG GLOBAL

Quality In Everything We Do

SGV & Co., a member practice of Ernst & Young Global, and the leading professional services firm in the country, invites suitable and qualified candidates to apply for the following positions:

SYSTEMS ANALYST PROGRAMMER
- College degree in Computer Science, Business Accounting courses with Application/ Programming training
- 3 years and above of IT experience in system analysis, design, development, post implementation support
- Strong business and accounting function skills in Manufacturing, Distribution, Trading, Retail, Service (consulting) sectors
- Consulting experience an advantage
- Knowledge on Visual Basic version 6, ASP.Net and Visual Basic .Net, SQL Server 2000, Crystal Report version 6.5 and above, Delphi version 3/5, XML
- Knowledge on the following an advantage: Adobe PhotoShop and Dreamweaver Macro Media Flash MX, implementation of Web-based program and deployment

Other requirements
- Team player
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Attention to detail
- Excellent organizational skills
- Easy to work with
- Committed to delivering concrete quality output
- Exposed to interfacing with all levels of an organization

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
- College graduate with a degree in Business Management, Psychology or any related course
- At least 3 years relevant experience, preferably with background in HR
- Proficient in typing and familiar with MS Office
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Good interpersonal skills and positive work attitude
- Willing to work long hours

HR ASSISTANT
- Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science or any related course
- At least 2 years experience in recruitment and other HR function
- Knowledgeable in MS Office Applications
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Good interpersonal skills and positive work attitude
- Willing to work long hours

Competitive compensation, benefits, world-class training and professional growth await successful applicants. To apply, e-mail your resume to sgvhrd@ph.ey.com or mail to:

Human Resources Group
3F, SGV 1 Bldg.
6760 Ayala Avenue
Makati City

*Sucessful candidates must be able to start right away.

We Think Like a Customer

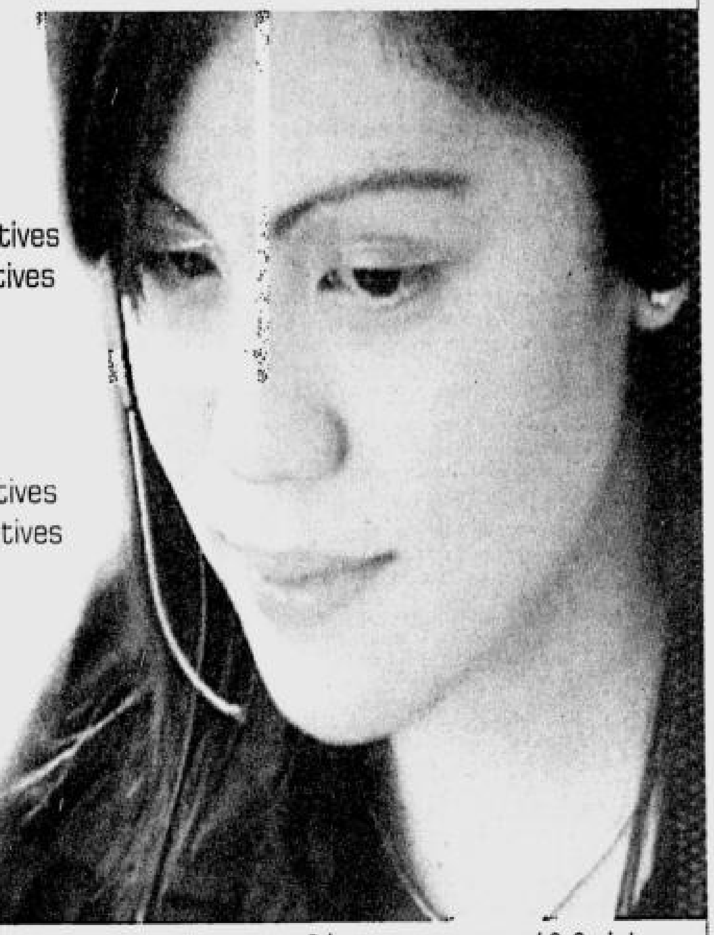
JOB VACANCIES:

FOR MANILA:

Customer Service Representatives
Technical Support Representatives
Accounting Assistant

FOR BAGUIO:

Technical Support Representatives
Customer Service Representatives
Site Support Supervisor
Company Nurse



Bring your resume w/ 2x2 picture, SSS & TIN nos.

JOBFAIRS:

PASIG:
Mon to Fri (9am-3pm) Feb 21 - 25
22/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza,
Emerald Ave, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

BAGUIO:
Mon to Fri (9am-5pm) Feb 21 -25
Baguio Economic Zone, Loakan Rd.,
Baguio City

CLIENTLOGIC
Philippines Inc.
Ortigas Center Baguio City

22/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Emerald Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600
E-mail: recruitment@clientlogic.com.ph www.clientlogic.com

Schneider Electric

Building a New Electric World

Schneider Electric (Philippines), Inc., A multinational owned organization engaged in the manufacturing of Electrical Equipment, a worldwide leader in Power Distribution, Industrial Control and Automation System. Responsible in the Philippines for the distribution of products known by the brand name Square D, Merlin Gerin & Telemecanique. Recruiting highly motivated professionals to urgently join its growth in the Philippines.

SALES SUPERVISOR (1)

Responsibilities
The key position shall be responsible to manage our Sales people covering the geographical areas for Luzon operation in accordance with our company's objectives. Acting as an interface between customers/partners with regards to product sales & development.

Requirements
Licensed Electrical Engineer or Graduate of Electronics Engineering. 5 relevant years of experience in the field of electrical product component business or other related industries. Exposed in Commercial Sales Business. Possess a good analytical mind for complex network, environments and configuration to help provide customer issues. Hands on and well experienced in using Microsoft office application. Possesses strong leadership qualities, management skills, presentations and communication skills.

SALES ENGINEERS (2)

Responsibilities
1. **Sales Engineer 1** - The person shall be responsible for identifying business potential in SOUTH LUZON area specifically in the key cities of Laguna, Bataan, Cavite. To develop network of distribution, drive product business growth and activities, understand the needs and target service opportunities in assigned areas.
2. **Sales Engineer 2** - The person shall be responsible to develop its business growth for ENERGY and ELECTRIC UTILITY BUSINESS. Required vast experienced in handling Energy Industry.

Requirements
Licensed Electrical Engineers or related course, with 2 to 3 years experience in the field of business development particularly in General Trade of Electrical Products, Equipment and Services. Must be a self- starter and able to work independently with minimum guidance. Good command of written and spoken English.

We prefer new qualified applicants to submit Resume complete with recent photo and a copy of school records, stating current and expected salary to:

The Human Resource
Schneider Electric (Philippines), Inc.
5th Floor, Alco Building, 391 Senator Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
E-mail: rowena.vicencio@ph.schneider-electric.com
Only short listed candidates will be notified

PERLA INSURANCE

We are a professional *insurance company* in the *non-life industry* & we are in need of dynamic individuals for our expansion program to fill up the position of

AGENCY DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

in different branches:
(Bacolod, Butuan, Cabanatuan, Cagayan de Oro, Cavite, Cebu, Cotabato, Dagupan, Davao, Dumaguete, Gen San, Makati, Iligan, Iloilo, Legaspi, Naga, Pagadian, San Pablo City, Sta. Rosa City, Tacloban, Zamboanga)

To qualify, applicants must be:
- ✓ Self-motivated and people/result oriented;
- ✓ Able to handle recruitment & development of agents;
- ✓ Committed & resourceful

A good opportunity for:
- ➢ Graduates of any business course, not more than 35 years old; and
- ➢ Individuals with strong Marketing background and willing to grow with the company.

If you are the person we are looking for, please send your application letter and resume with 2x2 photo to:

PERLA INSURANCE
Perla Mansion, 117 C. Palanca St
Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229

We are one of the leading Exclusive Distributors of Medical Supplies and Equipment. We want career-oriented individuals to develop and operate new territories in the Hospital Business Industry.

MEDICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVES (Manila & Cebu)
- M/F not more than 28 y/o.
- Preference given to graduates of Business Administration or any related course.
- Paramedical graduates are also welcome.
- With at least 2 years experience in the sales and promotions of high quality medical supplies and equipment.

Interested applicants may apply in person with your resumé and credentials at #68 President Osmeña St., Rosario, Pasig City. Cebu applicants, you may fax your applications at 6567165 or email them at unimed@pacific.net.ph. For inquiries, you may call Leny at 6565808 or 09277085913

IMMEDIATE HIRING
Account Executive

Qualifications:
- Female (20-30 yeras old)
- Pleasing personality / Good Communication skills
- Computer Science Graduate
- Proficient in Windows OS
- Prior sales experience in POS product is preferred but not necessary
- Willing to travel

Interested Applicant should hand-carry their resumé with latest 2x2 picture at:

CONCEPT SPECIALIST, INC.
Unit 109-A Criselda Bldg., Sct. de guia St., Q.C.
Tel No 9256070, 9255613, 9205763

A dynamic Multi Disciplinary firm in the Top 200 Architects in the World with ISO 9001 & 14001 invites highly motivated individuals to fill the following positions:

Senior Architect/ Senior Project Coordinator
- Must be Male – LICENSED ARCHITECT
- Must have at least Eight (8) years work experience in detailing and construction drawing
- Articulate in English
- Knowledge of Arabic, Persian, Vietnamese and Chinese language would be an advantage
- Must be male, 40 years old and above
- Hardworking, can work long hours and on weekends
- Honest with Integrity
- Can work with pressure/with sense of urgency

Architectural Designer / Renderers
- At least with five (5) yrs. work experience
- Male/Female Architecture graduate
- Articulate in English
- Knowledge of Arabic, Persian, Vietnamese and Chinese language would be an advantage
- Hardworking, willing to be assigned abroad/can work long hours and on weekends
- Proficient in AUTOCADD

Structural Engineer
- Must be LICENSED CIVIL ENGINEER
- Must have at least five (5) yrs. work experience in the following trades:
  - A. CADD drafting of Structural plans
  - B. Quantity cost estimation
  - C. Structural design and detailing
- Must be above 27 yrs. old
- Must be honest and hardworking
- Willing to work long hours and on weekends
- Willing to be assigned abroad
- Articulate in English
- Can work with pressure/with sense of urgency

Mechanical /Electrical / Sanitary Engineer
- Must be LICENSED ELECTRICAL ENGINEER / MECHANICAL ENGINEER or SANITARY ENGINEER / MASTER PLUMBER
- Must have at least five (5) yrs. work experience in design and supervision of their respective trades
- Articulate in English
- Knowledge of Arabic, Persian, Vietnamese and Chinese language would be an advantage
- Must be honest and hardworking
- Willing to work long hours and on weekends
- Willing to be assigned abroad

Chief Accountant
- Graduate of BS Accounting course, CPA
- Must be at least three (3) yrs. experience in an Auditing firm
- Female , 27 – 35 yrs. old
- Supervisory experience would be an advantage
- Can handle work pressures, with strong planning, organizational and leadership ability
- Experience in handling Tax procedures would be an advantage

Front Desk Officer
- Female, college graduate at least 25 yrs. old and above
- Articulate in English and with pleasing personality
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Computer literate
- Hardworking, can work long hours and on weekends
- Honest with integrity

Planning Assistant
- Male, not more than 27 yrs. old
- Architecture graduate with experience in Planning
- Proficient in AUTOCADD/Architectural desktop
- Hardworking, can work long hours and on weekend
- Knows how to drive

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY SEND THEIR RESUMÉ WITH RECENT 2X2 PICTURE, A COPY OF TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND NBI CLEARANCE TO THE ADDRESS BELOW INDICATING THE POSITION APPLIED FOR:

HUMAN RESOURCES UNIT
MCPO Box 1515
Makati City 1260

The best companies need the best people.
visit us at www.jobmarketonline.com
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INQUIRER

INQUIRER

JOB Market

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for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
e-mail address: jobmarket@inquirer.com.ph
Main Office: Pasong Tamo, Makati City
☎ 8994427 (Direct) ☎ 8978008 (Trunk) Fax 8978425
G/F Atrium Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
St. Anthony's Bldg., Aurora Blvd., Quezon City
☎ 9129008-11 Fax 9129011
SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F Trinity Bldg., 636 T.M. Kalaw St., Manila
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5224406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
Alabang, Muntinlupa City
☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506465

★★ *Where You Find The Best.*

Text us your feedback: Inquirer jm name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Welcome to ICT Group.

In a global industry that has an estimated worth of $73 Billion, we see the challenge of offering more than just employment.

We see the opportunity to maximize the potential in every individual who joins our ranks.

With the growth of our workforce, we see progress. And every career that takes flight, we see the opportunity to change lives.

ICT Group.
Building the future.
One career at a time

ICT Group is in need of

Customer Service Representatives

(FOR FINANCIAL, TECHNICAL, SALES AND GENERAL ACCOUNTS)

- Candidates must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in any field
- Excellent communication skills in conversational ENGLISH
- Active listening skills
- Strong interpersonal skills to work with the customers and with the team
- Applicants must be willing to work on shifting schedules

French and Spanish Speaking Representatives

- Strong conversational skills in French and or Spanish

Compensation & Benefits Specialist

- Four-year college degree in BS Psychology, AB Behavioral Science or any other related course
- Minimum of one-year experience as Compensation and Benefits Specialist
- Working knowledge of Benefits Administration and Management, Compensation and Payroll Administration
- Qualified candidates must have strong analytical, problem solving, and communication skills
- Willing to work on shifting schedule especially during graveyard shifts

WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING PART-TIMERS FOR OUR CSR/TSR REQUIREMENTS

ICT GROUP

Please submit your resume ASAP to recruitingmanila@ictgroup.com or

Visit our Recruitment Center
14TH Floor Union Bank Tower,
Onyx corner Sapphire Road Ortigas Center, Pasig City

For more information please call us at (02) 857-8400 extension 7303

URGENT HIRING

Armed To Last
ARMOURWOOD
TANALISED TREATED WOOD SOLUTIONS

Joint Companies Central Lumber Corp.(Cebu), a 50yr construction supply company and McAlpines Ltd (New Zealand), one of the largest sawmilling group in NZ is in need of personnel for the Armourwood Team -

SALES Representatives
- Male, with pleasing personality
- Single, at least 22 years old
- Sales experience would be an advantage
- Graduate of any Bachelors Degree
- Dynamic, Enthusiastic & Energetic
- Having a driver's license is an advantage

TeleMarketer
- Female, with pleasing personality
- Fluent in English and Tagalog
- Single, at least 22 years old.
- Experience in Telemarketing is an advantage
- Graduate of any Bachelors Degree
- Organized, computer literate (word, excel)

Technical Engineer
- Male, licensed civil engineer
- Single, at least 23 years old.
- Experience in Timber design & estimating is an advantage.
- Computer literate(word, excel, staad)

Submit application w/ 2x2 ID, resume and TOR to Armourwood office UNIT 1208, City and Land Megaplaza, corner ADB Avenue and Garnet Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Look for Jayson Ancheta. For inquiries, call us at 914-0097 or email us at awoodmla@pldtdsl.net

Central Lumber Corporation PHILIPPINES

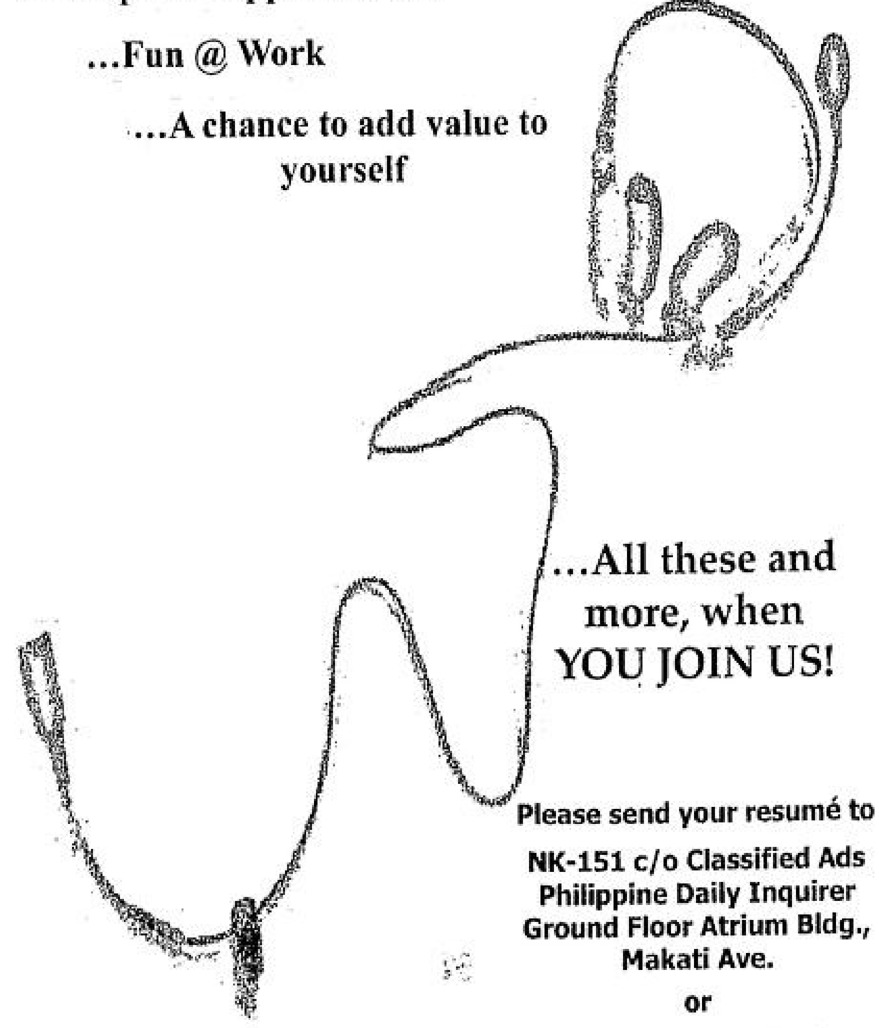
McALPINES NEW ZEALAND

Trainers • Quality Assurance Reps • Customer Service Associates • Operations Supervisors
Shift Managers • Human Resources Staff • Quality Assurance Supervisors

...Personal and professional development opportunities

...Fun @ Work

...A chance to add value to yourself



...All these and more, when YOU JOIN US!

Please send your resumé to

NK-151 c/o Classified Ads
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Ground Floor Atrium Bldg.,
Makati Ave.

or

callcenter_recruitment@yahoo.com

Taal View Heights NATURE HOMES
Buena Vista
Actual view taken from Taal View Heights

We need the best people to sell the best view!

Ledesco Development Corporation is a 30-year old reputable real estate development company that is actively engaged in developing residential and resort-oriented properties in urban areas outside of Metro Manila. We are looking for creative; highly motivated, aggressive, results-oriented individuals who've got what it takes to be leaders!

Sales Managers

- Male or female, 25-45 years old, college graduate with experience in high-end resort, residential development or country club shares or direct selling
- Must be creative and innovative in marketing club shares and residential / resort lots
- Strong in interpersonal communication and management skills
- Strong leadership quality
- Willing to work for long hours and on weekends

Sales Associates

- Male or female, 18 years old and above, with a pleasing personality
- College student or graduate, entrepreneur
- Must be a fast learner and willing to take on new challenges
- Strong in interpersonal communication and management skills
- Willing to work for long hours and on weekends

Licensed Real Estate Brokers / Broker Groups are also welcome.

We need you to market our latest and hottest properties in Tagaytay / Talisay that boast spectacular views of Taal Lake and Taal Volcano: **Taal View Heights Nature Homes**, a residential leisure community, and **Buena Vista Nature Park and Country Club**, the first nature- and family-oriented leisure park in the country.

Due to the urgency of requirements, interested parties are requested to fax or e-mail first your resumes at **ledesco_recruitment@yahoo.com**, then call us at **812-1169** or **812-1173** or text us at **0917-852-1901** for your interview scheduled.

LEDESCO DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
WWW.LEDESCO.COM

TOTAL TRANSCRIPTION SOLUTIONS, INC.

The country needs the best MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONISTS.

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Total Transcription Solutions, Inc. (TTSI) is a 100% Filipino-owned facility that provides medical transcription services to hospitals, clinics, group and individual practices in the United States. An established leader in the MT industry, TTSI now offers an opportunity for a career in medical transcription.

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Our Training Program

- provides extensive exposure to relevant and real transcriptions
- is superior which differentiates our graduates from mediocrity
- is hands-on and conducted by credible industry experts

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ISO 9001:2000 Certified

Take the challenge of joining a dynamic educational institution committed to excellence!

For schoolyear 2005-2006, we are actively seeking for faculty and staff who are committed to develop learners to become movers of society.

• TEACHERS for Grade School and High School

- Preferably BEEd or BSEd graduate or any related course
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Specialization in any of the following subjects is a must: Reading, English, Home Economics, MANDARIN/ CHINESE, Math, Science, Filipino
- Preferably with PRC(LET) License

• Marketing/Public Relations Staff

- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- With pleasing personality and must not be more than 30 old

• GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

- Graduate of AB/BS Psychology
- Preferably with at least one year work experience

• LABORATORY ASST.

- Graduate of any 4- yr course related to chemistry, nursing, or any science related course

• PRESCHOOL TEACHERS

- College graduate with specialization in Early Childhood Education or Reading
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- With pleasing personality and must not be more than 30 years old

• HR STAFF

- Graduate of BS Psychology with at least one year experience in recruitment and/or other human resource functions

• SCHOOL NURSE

- Is a registered nurse

• LIBRARIANS

- Bachelor's degree in Library Science

• Psychometrician/Guidance Staff

S.I.S.C. offers a good compensation and benefits package.
We guarantee your continued professional and personal growth.

Qualified applicants are requested to submit their curriculum vitae ', transcript of records and recent 2 x 2 photo to the Human Resource Office, Southville International School and Colleges
1281 Tropical Avenue corner Luxembourg St., BF International, Las Piñas City
Tel. Nos. 820-8702/03 or 825-6374 local 106

or come for evaluation on February 26 or March 5, 2005, 8:30 AM

The School of Future Leaders and Achievers. Right here. Right now.

Attention: Residents of Olongapo City or nearby towns:

TOA CORPORATION is in urgent need of the following manpower:

FIELD (CIVIL/BUILDING) ENGINEER

- Male, 25-45 years old
- Computer Skill (MS Word, Excel)
- Fluent in English (Oral & Written)
- With Driver's License

QUANTITY SURVEYOR ENGINEER

- Male/Female, 25-45 years old
- Licensed Civil Engineer with QS Work Experience
- Computer Skills (MS Word, Excel) and can operate Auto-CAD
- Fluent in English (Oral & Written)
- With Driver's License

OFFICE (CIVIL/BUILDING) ENGINEER

- Male/Female, 25-45 years old
- Licensed Civil Engineer
- Computer Skill (MS Word, Excel) and can operate Auto-CAD
- Fluent in English (Oral & Written)
- With Driver's License

DRAFTSMAN/CAD OPERATOR

- Male/Female, 25-45 years old
- Computer Skill (Autocad, MS Word, Excel)
- Fluent in English (Oral & Written)
- Experience for Civil/Building drawings

SURVEYOR

- Male, not more than 45 years old
- Licensed with at least 3 years experience
- Computer Skill (MS Word, Excel)
- Fluent in English (Oral & Written)
- With Driver's License

SURVEYOR AID

- Male, not more than 35 years old
- High School grad., with knowledge in handling survey equipment & instrument
- Fluent in English
- With Driver's License

SECRETARY

- Female, 23-45 years old with pleasing personality
- Graduate of any 4-year course with at least 3 years work experience
- Computer Skill (MS Word, Excel)
- Fluent in English (Oral & Written)

**For inquiries, please look for:
Mr. Sumita / Mr. Descatamiento at
TOA CORP.-Mnl Ofc. Tel#816-3560/
892-2809 Fax#816-3561**

WE ARE LOOKING FOR TOPNOTCH PROFESSIONALS FOR OUR EXPANSION PROGRAM!

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT MANAGER

Male/Female at least 30 years old; with extensive training and work experience in facilities maintenance, including project budget preparations, building admin, general services housekeeping, messengerial, security and transportation), vehicle preventive maintenance, government permits and licenses, etc.;

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING SPECIALIST

Male / Female not over 30 years old; Bachelor's Degree in Organizational, Industrial Psychology or Human Resources supplemented with five years of directly related work experience, computer literate, good communication skills.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Reporting directly to the president; female, single 21-27 years old, college graduate; with pleasing personality; at least 2 years relevant experience in the same capacity, computer savvy, willing to work for long hours.

MEDICAL SALES EXECUTIVES

Male / Female, not over 28 years old, preferably a graduate of any medical or marketing course from a reputable university, with Good communication skills.

PRODUCT SPECIALIST

Female, not over 30 years old; Licensed ECE with good communication and presentation skills, Computer literate; willing to work long hours.

CADET BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERS

Male, not over 25 years old, Licensed ECE, with basic knowledge of test instruments, computer literate; willing to work long hours, with good oral and written communication skills.

MECHANIC

Male, not over 30 years old, knowledge in vehicle repair and maintenance; with Professional Driving License.

PURCHASING CLERK

Female, Single 24 - 28 years old; Graduate of any 4 year course; computer literate and has analytical skills.

These are URGENT requirements. Applicants are requested to send their resumé, Transcript of Records and recent 2x2 picture to:
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT P.O. Box AC 460 Q.C.

KYODO NEWS Manila Bureau
Japan's leading News Agency is in need of

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Qualifications:

- CPA, with excellent communications skills both oral and written
- Female, 25 - 35 years old
- At least 5 years experience in all aspects of accounting and office administration
- Familiar with government requirements (BIR, SSS, Philhealth, ITR)
- Must be computer literate (Word, Excel)
- Good organizational skills, honest and can work independently

We offer a salary package plus benefits to the right candidate. Please send your detailed resumé, transcript of records and reference not later than March 4, 2005 to:

KYODO NEWS
4/f Pacific Star Building
Makati Avenue cor. Sen Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City 1200
811-5149

**NO TELEPHONE INQUIRY WILL BE ENTERTAINED
FAX APPLICATIONS NOT ACCEPTED**

JOB OPENING

Account Executive

- Female
- 22 to 24 years old
- Single
- Preferably a graduate of a 4-year business course
- Proficient in written and oral communications
- Preferably at least 1 year of experience in sales or marketing
- Goal-oriented, confident and has a passion and joy of service
- Willingness to work overtime and during weekends if necessary

Please send your resume to info@eventvisions.com.ph or fax to 8111720.

Nikko MATERIALS Philippines, Inc.

The first and only copper foil manufacturing company in the Philippines is urgently in need of dynamic and aggressive individuals to join our team as

SHIFT DUTY OFFICER (Code SDO)

Will be responsible for overseeing & monitoring all activities related to the overall operation of copper foil; closely coordinate with Production Control on various activities & planned actions on problems pertaining to production schedule, material availability, quality, engineering standards & production equipment; oversee all activities related to efficient & effective production of copper foil to ensure that all works are performed in accordance with the set plans, schedules, priorities & all company products being produced are all in conformance with the required customer specifications; support production to ensure that manpower & equipment utilization are maximized; oversee the safety & security of all employees during operation; conduct roving inspection.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Male; 30-40 years old
- BS Engineering graduate (preferably licensed)
- With at least 2 years supervisory experience in electronics or manufacturing plant
- With good communication and strong leadership skills

Qualified candidates may send their comprehensive resume through express mail or e-mail with recent 2X2 photo, with appropriate position code not later than **MARCH 7, 2005** or may send mail to:

Code : ____________
Attention: HRD-Recruitment
NIKKO MATERIALS PHILIPPINES INC.
P.O. BOX 39919
LTI Post Office
4026 Sta. Rosa, Laguna

E-mail Address: recruitment@nikkomaterials-ph.com

WE ARE BARELY 2 YEARS IN THE FOOD INDUSTRY AND OUR GROWTH IS SO FAST THAT MUST HIRE ADDITIONAL COMPETENT MEN & WOMEN TO JOIN OUR TEAM, AND WE NEED YOU ***RIGHT AWAY!!!***

HR SPECIALISTS

- 1-2 years experience in HR functions (recruitment, selection, employee benefits)
- Must be well versed in SSS, Philhealth, Pag-ibig, tax withholding procedures & reporting requirements
- Adept in payroll preparation
- Knowledgeable in labor laws
- Excellent interpersonal skills and as good team player
- Excellent oral & written skills
- Computer literacy is a must

ACCOUNTING STAFF

- M/F not over 30 yrs. of age; pleasing personality
- BS Accounting; Computer literacy is a must
- Good in oral and written communication skills
- Working knowledge in F/S preparation, account analysis, maintenance of proper books of accts. & subsidiary records, payroll preparation & reporting to gov't agencies (SEC, BIR, SSS, HMDF & Philhealth)
- Familiar with Acctg. Systems control

ACCOUNT SPECIALISTS

- M/F below 30 years of age
- Graduate of any business course
- At least 2 yrs. experience in the same capacity

Due to the urgency of these requirements, applicants are requested to bring a comprehensive resumé starting Monday 1:30 PM at:

***JD ISLAND FOOD CONCEPTS
WAREHOUSE 4, ROAD 12 NDC COMPOUND
STA. MESA, MANILA CITY***

Note: Applicants will be entertained ONLY in the afternoon

JOB Market VISIT US AT **www.jobmarketonline.com**

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

For Metro Manila assignment:

- M/F, college graduate
- W/ pleasing personality
- Age limit: 35 yrs old
- W/ sales experience
- Has good communication skills

Additional qualification for Northern and Southern Luzon assignment:

- **Can drive**

For inquiries, pls call : **884-1664**
Or fax resume at : **884-1579**

SALES AGENTS/TELEMARKETERS

- at least college level
- aggresive/hardworking
- honest/ambitious/self motivated
- has a keen desire to learn
- HAS A GREAT NEED TO EARN!

Resumé & NBI Clearance to:

EDGE 21 Logistics
24/F, Raffles Corp. Ctr.
Emerald Ave., Ortigas, Pasig
Fax: 900-5526

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Send resumé with recent photo and expected salary on Monday, February 21, 2005 at

**Suite 1702 Sunset View Tower,
2230 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City**

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www.go2canada.com

FREE ASSESSMENT

A fast growing International agrochemical company is looking for young, energetic, result-oriented

Field Manager / Area Sales Manager

with B.S. Agriculture degree preferably from U.P. Los Baños or any reputable university and with 3-5 years of experience in a Multi-National Agrochemical company. He should possess skills in dealing with distributors, dealers and farmers. Can handle effectively sales & collection in the area. Preferably the candidate should be a resident of Mindanao.

The selected candidate will be based in Mindanao. The company offers competitive compensation package including a 4-wheel vehicle. Interested applicants may please forward their resumé and other credentials including salary history within 15 days to:

BIOSTADT

Biostadt Philippines, Inc.

Unit 307 Grace Bldg., Ortigas Avenue
Greenhills, San Juan 1500, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 723-1238; 723-3482 Fax No.: 723-1237
E-mail: biostadt@pldtdsl.net

THE DOCUMENT COMPANY

FUJI XEROX

ACCOUNT MANAGERS

THE JOB: Ensure achievement of targeted Sales, Revenue and profit from diverse array of products / services offering by effective prospecting and account management within a targeted group of accounts within one or more industry segments, where Fuji Xerox products / service offerings are positioned uniquely for competitive advantage; Lead the creation of proposal recommendation, negotiation and implementation of proposed solutions; Ensure promotion / achievement of brand loyalty and generate sound prospects for repeat business.

QUALIFICATIONS: At least 25 years old, preferably a Bachelor of Science degree holder of Management, Marketing, Computer Science, Engineering or any related course. Self-motivated, experience in IT application, and consulting skills a plus, with good inter-personal, oral and written communication skills, as well as, excellent presentation & negotiation skills. Results – oriented, customer – focused, at least three (3) years working experience in sales and marketing in IT or Telecommunications or Graphic Arts Industry, and with above average IQ.

BUSINESS ANALYST

THE JOB: Work with customers, in all levels of the organization to understand the customer's business strategy and its impact on work processes and document flows within the customer organization; Identify /develop potential solutions encompassing people, processes and ultimately enhance productivity for Fuji Xerox customers.

QUALIFICATIONS: At least 25 years old, College Graduate, with three (3) years experience in the Information Technology (IT) industry as analyst. Self–motivated, with good inter-personal, oral and written communication skills, as well as, excellent presentation and negotiation skills. Results–oriented, customer–focused, and with above average IQ. Has basic financial skills.

PRODUCT MANAGERS

THE JOB: To provide leadership in managing a product or group of products to ensure maximum market penetration and profitability

QUALIFICATIONS: College Graduate with Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science / Engineering / Management / Marketing, an MBA degree is an advantage. Has a combined minimum four (4) years experience in Marketing and Sales with minimum two (2) years experience in product or brand management / marketing preferably in IT or Telecommunications. Knowledge of Industry-based marketing including distribution methods and technologies is preferred. Prior project management and market analysis experience is a plus. Has analytical and decision making capabilities and is highly innovative, focused and driven. Possesses above average intelligence with good interpersonal and communication skills.

FUJI XEROX PHILIPPINES, INC.
Human Resource Division
19th Floor, 6788 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 8785200 loc. 137. Please look for: Ms. Juvy J. Vidal
or E-mail: juvy.vidal@phl.xerox.com

KMBI

Is a Christian development organization engaged in Microfinance & Bus. Dev't. Services with operations in Manila, Southern Luzon, Bicol and Southern Philippines

If you are a Christian professional in the field of Accounting, Research and Business Development who has an active involvement in church ministry and desires to join a professional organization that advocates poverty-alleviation and transforming lives for God's glory, we need you to fill up the following positions:

HR Assistant

- Male, single, a graduate of Psychology, Social Sciences or BS Nursing
- Values driven, diligent worker & team player
- Highly-computer literate
- At least 1 year experience in payroll preparation, benefits administration and records management
- Can work long hours w/ min. supervision

Research & Dev't. Manager

- Male/Female, graduate of MassCom, Dev't Com.
- With at least 1-2 years in-depth research experience
- Knowledgeable in newsletter production
- Knowledgeable with Pagemaker & Powerpoint
- Proficient in making business proposals & feasibility studies, product dev't. and market research

Audit Associates

- Male/Female, a graduate of Accountancy
- Values driven, diligent worker & team-player
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Luzon/Mindanao
- With 1-2 years auditing experience

Accounting Associates

- Male/Female, a graduate of Accountancy
- Values driven, diligent worker & team-player
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Luzon/Mindanao
- With advanced branch to branch/head office accounting background

Audit Manager

- Male/Female, a CPA
- Values driven, diligent worker & team-player
- Willing to travel around Luzon/Mindanao
- With 3-5 years auditing experience in managerial capacity

MIS Administrator/Programmer

- Male/Female, a graduate of BS ComSci
- Values driven, diligent worker & team-player
- Willing to travel in Luzon/Mindanao
- With 2-3 years programming experience
- Knowledgeable in program design, troubleshooting

BDS Assistant

- Male/Female, a graduate of any business course
- Values driven, diligent worker & team-player
- Willing to travel around Luzon/Mindanao
- With 2 years small & medium business development experience
- Can do research and conduct trainings

Admin. Assistant

- Male/Female, a graduate of any business course
- Values driven, diligent worker & team-player
- Willing to travel in Luzon/Mindanao
- At least 1 year related experience
- Highly-organized, assertive and willing to work on extended hours

Interested applicants may submit their comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture at the HRD Department, KMBI Head Office, #12 KMBI Bldg., San Francisco St., Karuhatan, Valenzuela City or email at kmbi@skyinet.net or m_orodio@yahoo.com
Telephone Numbers: 291-1484-85; Fax No. 292-2441

We are an equal opportunity employer offering industry-competitive compensation, Php1-M Accident, Insurance Coverage, Health Insurance, Rice Allowance, and Cash Incentive on top of the statutory benefits, plus a chance to travel.

INQUIRER
PUBLICATIONS, INC.

BANDERA / CEBU DAILY NEWS / TUMBOK

Which publishes Cebu Daily News has a vacancy for a

Senior Editor

- Five years editing experience in a news organization
- Above-average command of written English
- Supervisory and leadership skills
- High sense of public service
- Strong competitive drive
- Works well under pressure of daily deadlines
- College graduate
- Cebu resident

Please send an application letter, resume and references to

Editorial Director
Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario Street, Cebu City

Email search@inquirerpublications.ph
aoasan@fep.ph
ailumin@fep.ph

Roche

Who we are

Founded in 1896 in Basel, Switzerland, Roche is an innovation-driven global healthcare leader dedicated to the discovery, research, production and marketing of high quality healthcare products. Consistently categorized among the top corporations in the country, Roche has been successfully operating in the Philippines for over 40 years.

Secretary

(Application Code: SEC)

The main responsibility is to provide administrative support to a pharmaceutical sales business unit. To qualify, you must be a college graduate with at least 2 years secretarial experience. You must be proficient in MS Office programs, with excellent oral and written English communications and outstanding interpersonal skills. Ideal candidates must be systematic, highly organized and can work with minimum supervision.

Field Service Engineer

(Application Code: FSE)

The main responsibility is to provide technical field service of diagnostic laboratory instruments. To qualify, you must hold a degree in B.S. Electronic and Communications Engineering/B.S. Electrical Engineering with good academic record. You must have good communications and interpersonal skills, analytical, flexible, proactive and works with a sense of urgency, with at least 1 year experience in a similar position. As a condition for employment, you must be willing to be assigned ANYWHERE in the Philippines.

Customer Care Assistant

(Application Code: CCA)

The main responsibility is to provide accurate information and quality service through the Diagnostics Division customer care hotline. To qualify, you must hold a B.S. Medical Technology/ B.S. Public Health degree with good academic record. You must be proficient with MS Office programs, and have excellent communications skills. The ideal candidate must be customer service oriented and with at least 1 year experience in a similar position.

Marketing Associates

(Application Code: MA)

The main responsibilities include promoting diagnostic products to physicians, medical technologists and medical/industrial institutions, undertaking territorial coverage, and efficiently managing assigned market areas. To qualify, you must hold a B.S. Medical Technology/B.S. Public Health degree with good academic record. You must be articulate, personable, competitive and must have a mature disposition. As a condition for employment, you must be willing to be assigned ANYWHERE in the Philippines.

How to Apply

Due to the urgency of these requirements, please submit your resumé with recent passport size picture and contact telephone number no later than ***Friday, 25 February 2005*** to:

The Human Resources Department - Application Code___
Roche (Philippines) Inc.
2252 Don Chino Roces Avenue, 1231 Makati City.

Only qualified applicants will be called for interview.

SURIGAO BASED - RESOURCE PROJECT SUPERINTENDENTS X 4

Our Company is in joint venture with a leading global resources firm, which is recruiting highly qualified persons for the following positions:

1. HSEC & HR Superintendent

Reporting to the Project Manager during the Project construction phase and is responsible in achieving high level of Health, Safety, Environment and Community relations (HSEC). This role also serves as the key Human Resources (HR) contact at site and will take accountability for delivering quality Human Resources services. Experience and high computing literacy required in HR and safety management. Key responsibilities will be:

- Strong background in community relations to ensure that HSEC systems are developed and implemented in the Project to comply with Company and regulatory standards.
- Establish HR function within Project and interface with joint venture partners and contractors to implement and manage quality human resources systems.

2. Technical Services Superintendent

Reporting to the Resident Manager (RM), responsible for pre grade control systems including laboratory construction, geological/geodetic surveys, licensed BsGeo or BsMinE with minimum 5-year project experience and highly proficient in mining softwares. Key responsibilities will be:

- Establish pre grade control capability and develop guidelines for operations
- Supervise surveys during the construction phase thru the mine development and operations
- Oversee and manage laboratory construction to completion at high HSEC standards and eventually liaise with its head for assays

3. Mine Operations Superintendent

Reporting to the RM, will support the implementation, management and monitoring of Project construction of mine ancillary facilities/infrastructures with high emphasis on HSEC; licensed BsMinE with at least 5-year construction and mine operations experience; high c literacy in mining softwares. Key responsibilities will be:

- Direct supervision of progress work during the construction phase for mine related infrastructures
- Assists in ensuring that cost and schedule are met at high HSEC standards
- Key planning and execution of mine extraction activities, thus liaison with mining contractor

4. Administrative and Financial Superintendent

Reporting to the RM, will support establishing site accounting system, permitting, contractual matters and procurement; a CPA with strong legal background. Key responsibilities will be:

- Handle Project financial/accounting aspects and assisst in regular audits
- Develop, with the Company's Chief Financial Officer, accounting manual
- Liaise with government for permits related to Project construction and operations

All roles are site based in Surigao for the term of the Project. All roles will require high integrity and supervisory skills. High regard for HSEC is paramount. Please provide at least 3 references.

Applications with resumés may be e-mailed until 4th March '05 to : *rahayes@qni.com.au*

Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.

JOB Market ONLINE

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

Qualifications:

- Graduate of Psychology or Behavioral Science
- Preferably male, at least 2 years experience in recruitment and selection
- Familiar with psychological tests
- Knows how to use office software
- Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Analytical Skills, Report Writing Skills

Responsibilities:

- To provide recruitment, selection and employment services and maintain an HR information system.

AUDIT ASSISTANT

Qualifications:

- Accounting graduate, preferably Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- At least 2 years experience in auditing
- Preferably from reputable auditing firms
- Knowledge of General Accounting & Auditing Principles & Procedures.
- Knowledge of Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing.
- Knowledge of Financial Data analysis, Taxation & Labor Laws.
- Analytical skills, Team player, can promote & implement appropriate process improvements.
- Knowledge of auditing systems in newspaper industry

Responsibilities:

- Perform audit procedures, organize working papers, prepare and communicate reports based on results of audit examinations.
- Assisting in identifying risk, evaluating controls and preparing audit plans / programs.

DESK EDITORS

Qualifications:

- College graduate major in Journalism or any Social Sciences course
- Must have 3 years experience in newspaper Journalism
- With at least 1 year experience in editing and designing/layouting pages

Responsibilities:

- Coordinates news gathering activities
- Edits stories and designs the layout of newspaper pages

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé or e-mail to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!!!

STORE MARKETING OFFICER FOR A LEADING FOOD CHAIN

- Collge Graduate
- Possesses good communication, interpersonal & management skills
- With background/experience in Sales & Marketing
- Med Reps are welcome to apply

Call 636-6327 to 29
Look for Dess

IMMEDIATE HIRING
FOR MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES

AutoCAD (Computer Aided Design) EXPERTS
- College Grad w/ experience in AutoCAD application or w/ a special course in AutoCAD

MICROBIOLOGISTS
- College Grad w/ experience as Microbiologist or in Quality Assurance

NUTRITIONISTS
- College Grad w/ experience as Nutritionist

SALES ASSOCIATES
- Female, at least 5'2" in height
- Fair and slim w/ pleasing personality

ENCODERS
- Female College Grad w/ experience as Encoder
- Knowledgeable in Microsoft Excel

Apply personally at:
3F Sentro Kapitolyo Bldg., 59 West Capitol Drive,
Barrio Kapitolyo, Pasig City
Tel. No. 747-2222. Bring bio-data

********* **WANTED** Residents of Pasig, Cainta, Taytay and Antipolo
OUR Company is need of competent, dedicated candidates who can fill up these Positions*********

RESTAURANT MANAGER/MANAGEMENT TRAINEE

Qualifications:
- Male or Female less than 30 years old
- College Graduate
- Must have good communication skills and pleasing personality
- At least 2-5 years experience in managing reputable food chain/restaurant.

RESTAURANT STAFF

Qualifications:
- Male or Female, 18-24 years old
- At least 2nd year College
- Must have good communication skills and pleasing personality

Requirements:
Updated resume with recent photo: Diploma/Transcript of Records; Birth Certificate; Employment Certificate.

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY SEND THEIR RESUME TO:
JANET E. GAETOS
Officer-In-Charge
AZUL MARINO, INC.
SEB Commercial Center
Ortigas Avenue Extension, Taytay, Rizal
Tel. Nos. 658-8561-63, 658-8561-61

AutoCAD DETAILER

- Proficient with AutoCAD 2000
- Experience in CURTAINWALL preferred
- Architectural, Engineering or fabrication background, necessary (min 2 years)
- Fluent English is a requirement

No WALK-INS please.
Send resumé to: **Benson Wall Systems Philippines**
Unit 1204, Corporate Center Bldg.,
139 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City

CPA or NON-CPA
with or without experience
Bring records to:
M.S. Banaria & Co., CPA's
S-201 Corporate Center Bldg.,
948 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Q.C.
Tel Nos. 912-4876 / 911-8062

A US-based multinational company with over 250 offices worldwide is in need of a local professional with the following qualifications:

M & E MANAGER

- A licensed professional electrical or mechanical engineer, preferably with masters degree on relevant field
- Minimum 15 years experience, with 5 years at managerial level
- Able to manage an M & E design team
- Must have ability to develop consulting services business
- Overseas contract exposure preferable
- Familiar with the local and international design codes
- Proficient in oral and written communication

Excellent remuneration commensurate to experience will be offered. Please send your resumé with one 2x2 photo to:

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What can you do if you think a former employer is trashing you?

WORKING WOUNDED
Bob Rosner

DEAR Readers: Blanche Dubois depended on the kindness of strangers and anyone looking for work relies on a kind appraisal when strangers ask for a reference. According to my e-mail, many references are anything but. We turned to Lester Rosen a lawyer, president of Employment Screening Resources (ESRcheck.com) and co-chair of the National Association of Professional Background Screeners for insight.

WW: How can the Net help a jobseeker when it comes to references?

LR: With studies showing that up to 40 percent of resumés contain falsehoods or material omissions, many employers are skeptical. Quintcareers.com and referencenow.com allow you to post reference and credentials. However, many employers take applicant supplied references with a grain of salt.

WW: So what reference options exist for a jobseeker?

LR: One new trend is independent verification of credentials. Myjobhistory.com independently verifies past employment and education, on the applicant's behalf, and provides a password an applicant can give to employers to look up the verifications for free online. A jobseeker gets e-mailed anytime an employer looks at their online credentials. The service verifies job dates and job titles. It doesn't attempt to provide work performance references, such as obtaining glowing accolades telling the world how wonderful you were. Hotjobs.com has a similar service.

WW: How do you handle a former employer that is trashing you to potential employer?

LR: Applicants who are having difficulty finding a job and suspect that a previous employer is the cause may want to think through the lack of success in more detail before reaching this conclusion. Our firm conducts thousands of reference checks every month, and a large number of past employers restrict their comments to dates of employment and job title only, even if there are good things they could say. Even those employers who provide information about job performance are reluctant to say anything negative. However, if you're in doubt, you should contact your past employer, verify their policy on references and ask what they are saying about you.

WW: Do you just have to put up with unfair references?

LR: If you are convinced that a past employer is going out of their way to bad mouth you, there are services available over the Internet that call up past employers on the applicant's behalf just to find out what is being said about you. These services truthfully say they are doing a past employment check, but neglect to mention it is on the job applicant's behalf. Allisontaylor.com is one option, others can be found by putting the words "employment references" in your favorite search engine.

WW: Any final thoughts?

LR: Applicant supplied references probably do not replace employer-performed reference checks, however, they can help you get your foot in the door and get that critical first interview.

So there are resources if you think that strangers are getting the wrong impression about you. Next time we'll explore the online resources available to help you determine the salary for a specific job.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot: Which best sums up your experience with references from former employers?

—They've been great, 28.1 percent

—I got screwed, 31.1 percent

—They've been fair, 40.7 percent

(Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

ILLUSTRATION BYDIONISIO BUCCAT

'Everything's right at work except ...

From page 8★★

avoiding Mr. X and not talking to him, your self-confidence will be eroded. Mr. X enjoys seeing you avoid him because it reinforces his own feelings of superiority and his judgment of your inferiority.

Person with problem

There are several steps you can take as Mr. X's superior: first, see Mr. X as a challenge not as a problem. Seeing something as a challenge arouses your achievement drive; seeing him as a problem evokes fear and resentment. Don't see him as a problem employee, see him as an employee with a problem. See Mr. X as a wounded person. He had assumed that he would be promoted to the vacant position, which he had held for two years in an acting capacity only to have his hopes dashed when you, an outsider, were hired. Can you experience his feelings of rejection, betrayal, shame, humiliation, devastation? When you see him from this perspective, you can have empathy and compassion for him.

Remember to put at the back of your mind that the company had chosen you from among many applicants both internal and external, interviewed you and found you more competent and better qualified than the other applicants, including him. This is the basis of your self-confidence and self-esteem.

Private conversation

Second, have a one-on-one session with him in private. During this session, I suggest you do the following things:

- Give him an I-message i.e., describe his negative behaviors towards you, and how you feel about them.

Example: Yesterday, during our staff meeting, while I was explaining the new process to be used, you got up and told the others, within my hearing, " 'That won't work. We've tried it already and it didn't work.' You remember saying this? ... I felt embarrassed by your remark and by your refusal to see the value of the new process I asked our group to try."

- Listen to what Mr. X has to say to this feedback. Then, paraphrase his reaction. Then, continue with other I-messages related to his behaviors towards you.
- Ask Mr. X if he wants to work with you or not. If he says "yes," ask him how you and he can work together. Listen and then summarize what he said. If he says "no," then ask him what he should do since you are his superior and he cannot change that relationship if he wants to continue to be part of your department. Listen to him. Then, summarize what he said.
- If he wants to work with you, ask him what challenging tasks or assignments does he want to undertake to show his superior knowledge and skills, and thereby gain visibility to top management. Assure him that you will support his career development but not at the expense of your own productivity and accountability.
- Express to Mr. X that you would like to try out your ideas on how things should be done to achieve your department's goals and ask him to be open to these ideas and give them a chance to be implemented before he "shoots them down."

I suggest you adopt a participative style of leadership wherever possible. Solicit ideas from him and from your other direct reports while you harmonize differences and arrive at a consensus decision.

Getting to know your staff

Of course, you cannot use consensus decision-making all the time. There are times when you need to make unilateral decisions in support of, or in compliance with policies and management decisions.

Third, look for opportunities to compliment or give Mr. X positive feedback for his productive behaviors and for his supportive behaviors towards you.

Fourth, get to know each one of your staff. Look at their 201 files. Devote at least one hour a week to have a one-on-one with each person. Find out how they feel about their work and their career. Find out about their families. Tell them about yours. Find out their ambitions and dreams. Share your own aspirations and ambitions so that they'll get to know you better. In this way, they will see you as a person and not as a boss.

Visit them in their work area. See the pictures of their families on their tables and inquire about them.

Fifth, use opportunities, such as birthdays, to have bonding activities between you and your staff including Mr. X. Invest your money on a cake to make the celebrant happy. Get to know them. Let them know you, too. God bless you.

(Ms Santamaria is the president of Career Systems, Inc. a leading provider of a wide array of career development training programs and consulting services in the Philippines. Send feedback to carsys@qinet.net.*)*

STI goes full-blast on job placement

AS THE need for a quick solution to the country's worsening economic problems and the steadily rising unemployment rate continue, more and more Filipinos are now training their sights overseas with the hope of finding better job opportunities abroad. In its 2004 survey, the National Statistics Office (NSO) reported that a total of 3.9 million, or 1 out of 10 Filipinos (11%), were unemployed last year. However, latest figures from the IBON Foundation, a non-government organization, suggests an even higher rate — 33%, which means that 3 out of 10 Filipinos are currently without a job.

Realizing the urgency of reversing this trend, STI, the largest network of colleges in the country, has come up with a unique human resource value chain called the ***E2E*** or "Enrollment to Employment" System, which sought to develop globally-competitive knowledge-based workers. The institution has envisioned a need to produce "job-ready" graduates whose skills are attuned to the needs of the job market so as to allow them to have gainful employment. Aside from developing skills, the system also provides job placement assistance for its students through STI's affiliation with Global Resource for Outsourced Workers (GROW), a leading overseas recruitment agency.

Given the immensely positive reaction to the E2E system, another support mechanism for the program was born. Called the ***"National Job Placement Week"***, the project is expected to further institutionalize STI's vision of creating better job opportunities for its graduates while at the same time helping them gain an edge over other job applicants. To be implemented through the STI Alumni and Placement Services, the program is a pioneering project that will stage one of the biggest jobs fair ever to be put up by a single institution. Part of the plan was conducting simultaneous jobs fair across STI's more than 100 campuses in Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao and the National Capital Region (NCR) from February 7-11. In Batangas, a group of STI schools in the vicinity of Tanauan, Balayan, Batangas City and Lipa have decided to hold a joint jobs fair undertaking with SM as one of the major event sponsors.

"***The National Job Placement Week***," explains Babes Bonoan, manager, STI Alumni & Placement Services, "is a countrywide job placement assistance program that's been designed solely for graduating students and alumni of STI. Aside from the simultaneous jobs fair that will be held across the nation, there'll also be career orientation seminars for graduating STI students. These will enable graduating students and prospective job seekers to better 'market' themselves."

To be conducted in support of one of the major components of the E2E system, which gives STI students and alumni supportive mechanism in their employment endeavors, the event shall also form part of STI's vision to offer education on a wholistic level.

"While STI continues to find ways of offering the best IT-enhanced education for today's youth, the STI Alumni and Placement Services, in parallel, shall continue helping STI graduates find better job opportunities here and abroad," offers Monique Bumatay, also of the STI Alumni and Placement services. The STI Alumni and Placement Services runs a web-based program called Interactive Career Assistance and Recruitment System (I-Cares) to help keep track of its members. It provides job placement assistance by establishing links between STI students and graduates with local as well as foreign employers.

Aside from getting a chance to meet face-to-face with representatives from the participating companies, the event will also give graduating students a chance to attend free seminars on power dressing, proper handling of job interviews and writing battle-ready resumes. Participants are also expected to enjoy the daily programs lined up for them, where STI students will be encouraged to look for business opportunities during the event. Interested parties are encouraged to call or visit STI schools nearest them. For more details, log on to *www.i-cares.com*.

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'It feels good!'

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

AS FAR as I have observed, the Philippines is about the only country in the world to have chapels or churches filled up with working people hearing Mass at lunch break. Vivian, a Makati executive, skips lunch daily to catch Mass at the Greenbelt chapel; she says it energizes her more than napping would. Penny, an accountant at Ortigas Center, likewise hears the noontime Mass at the Edsa Shrine, then takes lunch at her desk with the lights off as the others take their daily nap. If you ask Vivian, Penny and others with the same 12 o'clock habit, they'll say they do it because, honestly, "it feels good." In fact, many of them say *"Kung puwede nga lang hindi na bumalik sa trabaho eh!* (If only I could choose not to return to work!)" They are the persons that today's Gospel reminds me of. Peter's offer to build tents hints at a desire to linger on the mountain with the Lord. Perhaps Vivian, Penny and company are like Peter who said "it is good to be here" but unlike Peter whose work allowed him to be always with Jesus, the women have to "leave the Lord behind" as they have time cards to punch.

The pressure to stop "feeling good" and to return to work is really a blessing in disguise. It keeps us always hungry for God. Consolations at prayer are but a tip of the iceberg, which is our whole relationship with the divine. If we take a breather from work and only remain with God because "it feels good, period," then what's the difference between God and marijuana? The workplace is one testing ground for the authenticity of our avowed love of God. In work, all of our being is tried—our skills, our relationships, our conscience. This can never be said often enough: by our fruits, we will be known. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

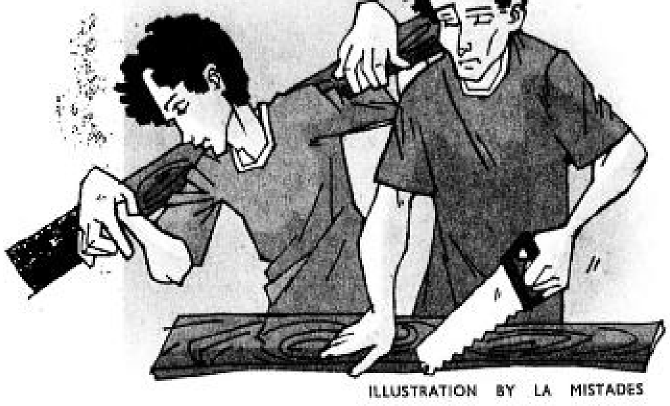

ILLUSTRATION BY LA MISTADES

Gospel: Mt. 17: 1-9

Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

Work to look good

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

THE WORDS of Peter in today's Gospel remind me of the "Build," a house-building project organized several times in Panaon Island, Southern Leyte by the diocese of Maasin with "Gawad Kalinga." A massive landslide occurred in that remote island in December 2003 and gave it momentary prominence in the international news. A great number of volunteers came from many places to build houses for families rendered homeless by the landslide. I observed the volunteers and noted the different reasons they came.

Some came not to really work but to look good in "photo ops." They would strain their muscles for a good angle and pose for the cameras rather than break their backs building. They took the opportunity to be seen "working" and participating in a supposedly noble project, to cut a good figure in the public eye rather than work hard to "transfigure" the devastated area into something beautiful for the victims to live in.

Some volunteers, however, did not bother about how they looked while working even under the scorching heat of the sun, digging the hard ground, carrying construction materials on their backs, working painstakingly as if they were building their own houses. Like Peter who saw the transfigured, glorious face of Jesus and was so fired up to build not just one tent but three tents, these volunteers seemed to have seen the "hand" of God in the disaster and His "face" in the people who suffered, and were, therefore, ready and willing to build not just one house but hundreds of houses. For me, they were the real heroes of "Build"—for in transfiguring the place, they themselves were transfigured in the eyes of God and man. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

My Trabaho program launched to fulfill dreams of Filipinos

From page 8★★

nology as part of its corporate social responsibility by helping develop www.mytrabaho.com under the My Trabaho Match program.

All four companies were brought together by Optimus Innovations' passion to serve the working public. A pioneer in popular and inexpensive learning, Optimus Innovations, Inc. offers world-class learning at popular prices for people at work and jobseekers through learning events, training programs and mass media.

Four components

The realization of the My Trabaho Dream all started when Inquirer, Manila Broadcasting Company and Optimus Innovations launched the free training for career planning last year. My Trabaho Dream, through free job coaching sessions, job hunting outfits, makeovers, training and cash allowance, assisted qualified beneficiaries in their job search. This ongoing program is accepting applicants every quarter for career mentoring.

Those not fortunate enough to be part of the one on one career coaching will be able to benefit in the near future from instant advice and feedback through My Trabaho Text. With this program, jobseekers will just be a text away from a pool of human resource consultants who can provide information on job opportunities, job hunting and advice on career planning. This component is still being worked out.

For a more in-depth and intensive assistance, My Trabaho Inspiration comes in. Through print and radio, experiences and success stories of My Trabaho beneficiaries are featured to inspire and educate the Filipino applicants.

Finally, My Trabaho Match, an online databank service, brings jobseekers within reach of prospective employers. Through www.mytrabaho.com, jobseekers can encode their resumés online, which can be accessed by employers. This makes job hunting and employee searching faster, easier and more convenient.

Countless beneficiaries

"It (My Trabaho Match) is not really just a web site or data base. It is a collaborative effort among partners who draw in all employers and jobseekers in the country to build the largest and most frequently used information base in the country today," says Ernie Cecilia, president of EC Busines Solutions and Career Center and columnist of PDI's People at Work Section.

Those who do not have access to computers may send or drop their resumés at designated drop-off centers nationwide. These include the STI campuses, PDI branches, MBC stations and the Optimus office. On the other hand, employers who wish to be a part of this inspirational project may provide benefits to the beneficiaries, lend their managerial expertise in the job coaching program, send in donations to enable the program's expansion or sign up as a subscriber to www.mytrabaho.com.

(*Send feedback to* candyvillanueva@pldtdsl.net.)

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www.mytrabaho.com

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E-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.
Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

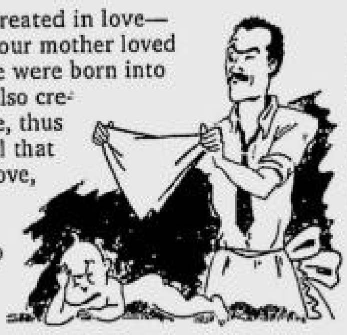
Say it with love

BEST ★ Attitudes

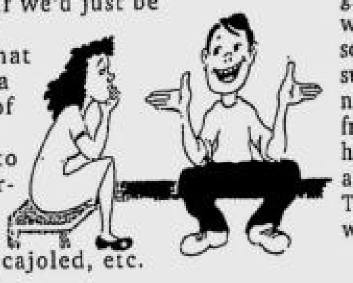
By Teresa Reyes Tunay
Illustration by Rolando Reyes

PARDON us for being as corny as any other lover on Valentine's Day, but this month we want to say something with flowers. Or rather, with love. "Say It With Flowers" is a common flower shop sales pitch. They suggest that when you want to express some warm feelings to somebody—feelings of concern for a loved one, a message of hope or cheer to an ailing person, such nice feelings. Happily, in the workplace, while it's not forbidden to "say it with flowers," there's a better way to say things you want to say, to get a longer lasting positive effect, and without having to spend anything: Say it with love.

1 Words that are thoughtlessly spoken hurt. They are like "weeds" you must pull out of your consciousness. Words of love are "flower seeds" because they stem from the heart and can be "planted" in the heart to be the root of all that is good.

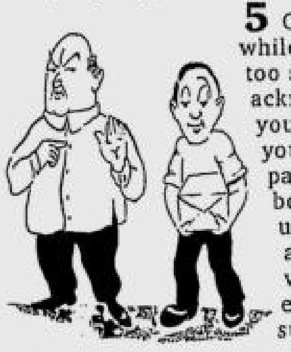


2 We were created in love—our father and our mother loved each other. We were born into a world that's also created out of love, thus it's only natural that we share this love, and the workplace is one area we can do this well (because we're there all the time, anyway).



3 One way of spreading love in the workplace is by saying words of support. If we'd just be alert, we can see that we have a long list of people needing to be encouraged, prodded, uplifted, cajoled, etc.

4 Is there a coworker struggling with a heart-wrenching personal problem? A subordinate needing inspiration from you (who happens to be his idol)? Someone about to wilt from boredom at work? Take time to listen to their woes and win new friends.



5 Once in a while, stop being too smart and acknowledge that you have love in your heart. The pay off is: you become more understanding and patient with people—even cranky supervisors...

6 You learn to accept coworkers for what they are: imperfect people with shortcomings and misgivings. And see, too, that you are just like them. Then you become a peacemaker because you have learned to embrace everybody in your heart.

7 Words of love comfort and empower. Don't be stingy with a compliment, especially if you're a boss. For "little people," a good word from you can be everlastingly meaningful and encouraging.

8 As one of the guys, you can lend a helping hand to a coworker overburdened with deadlines and tasks. You need not carry his load—just make it seem lighter by, say, offering to make him a cup of coffee, or splitting a chocolate bar with him, such things speak of love.

9 Words of love turn a tedious day into a cheerful one. Even a simple "Hey, how did your bright son figure in the exams?" can mean so much to a parent coworker. Even a funny story told at lunch break can make a difference in one's day at work.

10 The word "work" need not be associated with drudgery, toil, grind, gloom, hardship, etc. You—and what you say in the workplace—can be a key to renewing the meaning of work. Whatever you say, say it with love. And reap a return on investment that's beyond your wildest expectations.

'Everything's right at work except my subordinate!'

By Josie O. Santamaria

ASK YOUR
CAREER
COUNSELOR

THANK you for the wonderful career advice you gave in your column on Feb. 6 entitled "Everything's right at work except my boss!" You advised the reader who was complaining about his boss' insistence that his subordinates comply with his standards and meet his expectations, to see his boss as his number one internal customer. In this way, the subordinate would have a different perception of his job and of his relationship with his superior.

I had that article photocopied and gave a copy to each of my six subordinates. I want to say that, except for one, each one appreciated your advice and related to me differently. All except one. My problem is one senior supervisor who is 10 years older than me and has been with the company for 22 years. He had taken over the position I am now holding in an acting capacity for the past two years after it was vacated with the resignation of my predecessor.

Mr. X (let's call him that to maintain anonymity) had expected to be promoted to the position. He was frustrated that the company had hired me, an outsider, to fill the vacant position.

Mr. X makes my life and my work difficult. He questions the procedures I set up and the deadlines I set, and even criticizes the decisions I make. I have tried to control my embarrassment, even my frustration and anger, by ignoring his remarks during our weekly meetings or even ignoring him altogether. I'm afraid that my own superior will see me as inept for my failure to relate positively with Mr. X and to establish a positive relationship with him.

But I can't help it if I dislike him. He is my problem. Please help me.

Ms Anxious

You are right about the way you will be perceived not only by your superior, but also by your employees and peers, and even by Mr. X himself. In addition, if you continue doing what you are doing, i.e.,

EVERYTHING'S/P. 6★★

What's inside

Reflections for the Working Soul p. 7★★

Working Wounded p. 6★★

My Trabaho program launched to fulfill dreams of Filipinos

By Candy G. Villanueva
Contributor

MyTRABAHO

DOLE Undersecretary Bitonio

HAVE you been perusing the classifieds from cover to cover everyday since last year? Have you worn out your shoe heels delivering copies of your resumé all over Makati? Are you almost out of money spending for transportation and application expenses? If you have been experiencing many of these and more, your troubles may soon be over. The My Trabaho program was launched this month at the STI corporate headquarters in Makati. With this collaborative effort of private organizations for the good of the public, landing your dream job may possibly be a click of the mouse or even a text away.

Messages

Department of Finance secretary Cesar Purisima, in his keynote nessage at the launch, said, "It's about creating opportunities for our people. I think by continuing this branching process, we will help facilitate the job creation process."

Undersecretary for Workers' Welfare and Protection of the Department of Labor and Employment, Benedicto Ernesto Bitonio Jr. was equally supportive. In his message, he said, "In the job fairs that we periodically undertake, only 15 percent of these vacancies are filled up because we are not reaching the people with the appropriate qualifications. There is a very basic problem. There are jobs waiting for them but the people do not know where they are." Bitonio is grateful for My Trabaho for having addressed this pressing concern. "With this private sector initiative plus public sector participation in other key areas, we will be able to provide clear information on what's available in the market. We will be able to provide more efficient services for our jobseekers. We will be able to provide more services to companies."

Representatives from the various chambers of commerce in the Philippines, employers organizations, overseas placement associations, and companies with substantial manpower requirements attended the launch. Key officers of the partner companies were also on hand to lend support to the program. This included STI president Monico Jacob and Philippine Daily Inquirer chair Marixi Prieto who both gave the welcome remarks.

Powerful names

A private sector initiative from five of the most trusted and most powerful names came together to feed the dream of the Filipinos to have a better life through gainful employment. To fulfill this dream, My Trabaho was born. Through its four components, My Trabaho Dream, My Trabaho Text, My Trabaho Inspiration and My Trabaho Match, this public service program aims to help the government and the people build a better and stronger nation.

My Trabaho is a collaboration of two media giants, The Philippine Daily Inquirer and The Manila Broadcasting Company, one of the largest educational institutions in the country, STI, one of the most creative software developers, Quantum X and the pioneer in popular learning, Optimus Innovations. With this powerful and influential group effort, My Trabaho aims to answer to the needs of employers to find the right person for the right job in a fast, convenient and cost-effective way. Ultimately, it aims to help jobseekers find their dream jobs and develop globally competitive competencies.

DEPARTMENT of Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima with Inquirer Chair Marixi Prieto at the My Trabaho launch

INQUIRER marketing executives Donald Lim (left) and Rene Reinoso (right) with Atty. Antonio Fontanilla (center) of Century Park Hotel

STI President Monico Jacob (left) with emcee Ernie Cecilia (center) and People at Work editor Regina Galang-Reyes

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

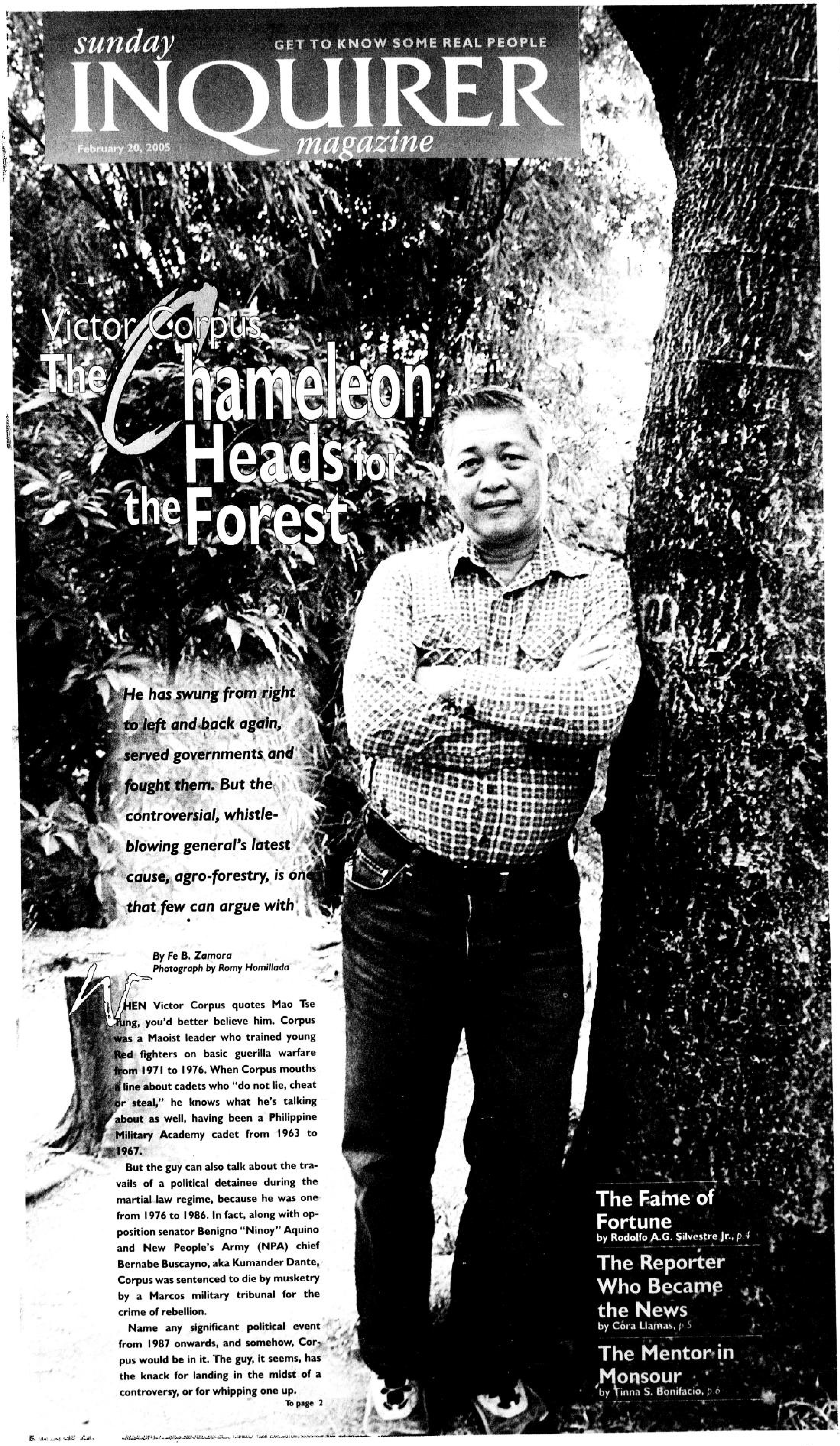
The Philippine Daily Inquirer has always been an advocate for jobseekers and the working population. Through the Job Market and the People at Work section, PDI has continuously aided applicants and employees yearning for career development. But PDI's commitment does not stop there. Through the My Trabaho public service program, Inquirer seeks to provide added value to its readers. "These are little changes that will ultimately bring us to a point wherein our productive workforce becomes globally competitive, fully employed and productive in contributing to our economy," shares PDI chair Marixi Prieto, during the launch.

As part of its Operation Tulong multi-awarded public service program, The Manila Broadcasting Company's (MBC) dzRH AM radio station hopes to provide its listeners a means to uplift the lives of the working masses through My Trabaho. Similarly, STI hopes to provide not only education but also employment services to its students through My Trabaho. "This makes it easier for them (students) to have access to jobs that will allow them to get out of the cycle of poverty that they have been through," claims STI's chairman of the board Felipe Alfonso.

Quantum X, one of the most creative software developers and web owner of workabroad.ph, is generously sharing its tech-

MY TRABAHO/P. 7★★

sunday
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
INQUIRER
magazine
February 20, 2005



Victor Corpus
The Chameleon Heads for the Forest

He has swung from right to left and back again, served governments and fought them. But the controversial, whistle-blowing general's latest cause, agro-forestry, is one that few can argue with

By Fe B. Zamora
Photograph by Romy Homillada

WHEN Victor Corpus quotes Mao Tse Tung, you'd better believe him. Corpus was a Maoist leader who trained young Red fighters on basic guerilla warfare from 1971 to 1976. When Corpus mouths a line about cadets who "do not lie, cheat or steal," he knows what he's talking about as well, having been a Philippine Military Academy cadet from 1963 to 1967.

But the guy can also talk about the travails of a political detainee during the martial law regime, because he was one from 1976 to 1986. In fact, along with opposition senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino and New People's Army (NPA) chief Bernabe Buscayno, aka Kumander Dante, Corpus was sentenced to die by musketry by a Marcos military tribunal for the crime of rebellion.

Name any significant political event from 1987 onwards, and somehow, Corpus would be in it. The guy, it seems, has the knack for landing in the midst of a controversy, or for whipping one up.

To page 2

The Fame of Fortune
by Rodolfo A.G. Silvestre Jr., *p.4*

The Reporter Who Became the News
by Cora Llamas, *p.5*

The Mentor in Monsour
by Tinna S. Bonifacio, *p.6*

Victor

...from page 1

PDI PHOTO

Getting emotional during a Senate hearing on the latest attempts to overthrow the government

In November 1987, he went public about an alleged plot to oust President Corazon Aquino, who had given him presidential pardon and approved his reinstatement with the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Army. Known as "God Save the Queen," the plot was supposed to have been carried out while Ms Aquino was on a state visit in Japan. The former military man turned Maoist said he learned of the plot from one of the plotters himself, who shared the information after Corpus alleged that the 1971 Plaza Miranda bombing was the handiwork of Jose Ma. Sison, founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines, and not of President Marcos as commonly believed.

No comment

The coup revelation earned him the ire of fellow officers in the PMA, who forthwith described him as "insane and mentally unstable." His former comrades in the Left were not happy either, and the word was that he has been in the communist hit list for sometime now. Other parties try to get back at him by using vicious rumors, one of which had him romancing a supposedly wealthy and gay investment banker. He has refused to comment on such talks.

But Corpus seems to know when to hold his tongue and when to talk. In 1989, he published his book, "Silent War," an incisive look into the insurgency from the point fo view of a soldier who had defected to the enemy, and eventually returned to the fold of the law. "Silent War" had actually fathered the military strategy called "Oplan Lambat Bitag" launched in 1988, when Corpus was assigned at the General Headquarters' joint operations office. He had been asked to produce a concept paper on how to defeat the New People's Army, which had grown from a ragtag army of two dozen men in 1969, to almost 25,000 fighters by 1988. The military worried that at the rate it was growing, the NPA might attain the "strategic offensive stage," meaning its strength and power could equal that of the AFP, by 1990. The Corpus proposal was based on the classic Maoist doctrine: "Remove the water, and the fish will die." The NPA rebels were the fish and the water was the people's support. By the mid '90s, the NPA strength had been whittled down to about 12,000 members, with Lambat Bitag getting part of the credit for the feat.

In 2001, Corpus made big news again with his expose that former Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Sen. Panfilo Lacson had deposited millions of pesos in drug money in bank accounts abroad. Lacson, who was Corpus' student at the PMA, had been perceived as "powerful and untouchable," so the revelation won this whistle blower popular support. At a forum in Ateneo de Manila, a student was loudly booed when she asked Corpus, "Would you apologize to Lacson in the event that the charges were never proved?" Corpus smiled and mumbled something about resigning as intelligence chief should that happen.

Instead of resigning however, he opened to media the gates of the intelligence fortress in Camp Aguinaldo where he housed and fed a host of anti-Lacson witnesses, among them the alleged girlfriend of slain Kuratong Baleleng chieftain Wilson Sorronda, the bosomy Jane Gomez, who would later become the girlfriend of an intelligence man. Corpus himself was romantically linked to Mary "Rosebud" Ong, another whistleblower, rumors that the two merely laugh off. They are good friends, they maintain, with Ong catering Corpus' dinner with the media just after he resigned as intelligence chief in July 2003.

Tree love

But all these rumors, charges and countercharges seem light years away today, this hot February noon, when Corpus lounges around in a red checkered polo shirt at the Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Nature Center in Quezon City. Leaning against a tree, he confesses to loving trees, more so the forest. "That must be why it was not difficult for me to join the NPA," he says with a laugh.

On his 60th birthday on October 4 last year, Brig. Gen. Corpus retired from the Armed Forces as chief of the AFP Civil Relations Service, ending perhaps one of the most extraordinary careers in the Philippine military. He had planned to write his memoirs while managing his mango orchard on Guimaras Island. But in December, President Macapagal Arroyo thrust him into the limelight again as presidential adviser on environment issues with the twofold task of running after illegal loggers and overseeing a national reforestation program.

The appointment came in the wake of a killer landslide in Aurora, Quezon and Nueva Ecija caused by the rampant denudation of the Sierra Madre mountains, which abut the three provinces. Corpus buckled down to work, and with Environment Secretary Michael Defensor, immediately collared some alleged illegal loggers, including some local officials. By January, it was clear that the campaign was going nowhere, as even some Department of Environment and Natural Resources personnel were found to have been in cahoots with suspected forest saboteurs.

Two weeks ago, Corpus told the INQUIRER he was leaving the campaign against illegal logging to Al Dagudag, a retired military general like himself, to focus on the reforestation program. "Never hit with both fists in two directions at the same time," he said to explain his decision.

Right now, he says, he has his full attention on an equally urgent cause, which is to replant the country's some nine million hectares of denuded forests. He has prepared a paper, titled "*Puno ng Buhay*: A Non-Traditional Approach to Reforestation," which he would present on powerpoint to groups who care enough to help preserve the forest in particular, and the environment, in general.

"The task of reforestation is simply impossible if we think along traditional lines. That's why," he says, "we have to think out of the box."

Political will

An "out of the box" approach would require a combination of "strong political will and empowerment of our upland dwellers," he says. The program also envisions a mix of forestry and agriculture, thus ensuring families a dependable livelihood while waiting for the trees to mature into marketable timber, which usually takes about 10 years, adds Corpus.

Corpus says past reforestation efforts failed because tree planters were treated as "mere hired labor." In a non-traditional approach, Corpus says the tree planters would be given 10 to 15 hectares reforestation lots which they would plant with at least 1,000 trees per hectare per year for the next 10 or 15 years. Each family who takes part in the program would be granted "tenurial instruments," which is like a certificate of ownership of the "trees and the fruits of the land," but not the land itself. He says the government, through the DENR, will provide the seedlings, while the local government units (LGUs) will provide assistance such as identifying potential reforestation areas and specie selection and providing peace and order in the areas. The Philippine Forest Corporation (PFC) shall issue the "tenurial instruments" and will provide overall management of the program.

For planting and nurturing the trees, Corpus says the family gets 70 percent of all future sales proceeds of the timber, while DENR, the LGU and the PFC gets an equal 10 percent each. But since the trees could not be harvested until after 10 years, the family must also engage in agriculture for subsistence, Corpus explains.

In 1993, Corpus pioneeed the Green Panay program, which tried to reforest portions of the 33,000 hectare military reservation in Jamindan, Panay, where he was assigned. That year, floods swamped 16 towns in Panay, and these were traced to the denuded military reservation. But replanting one hectare alone would cost P20,000, according to Corpus. "So I gathered the communities and asked them, do you want to send your children to college? And they all said yes," he recalls.

Better plan

He sold the idea of planting and nurturing trees like it was a college education plan. He encouraged parents with young children to plant trees, and harvest the trees in ten years, or just about the time the children would enter college. At the market price of P10,000 per tree, the timber from 1,000 trees could fetch about a million pesos. "That's even better than a pre-need plan," Corpus says. The program became so popular that Corpus was featured in Newsweek magazine. But the other military commanders were not so happy. In the mid '90s, Corpus was pulled out from the unit, and the Green Panay program wilted away.

Corpus hopes to recreate the Green Panay program but on a national scale. For this project, he has chosen the tree specie Paulownia, also known as the "Wonder Tree of China." Reputed to be the fastest growing hardwood in the world, the Paulownia has been introduced and grown successfully in 30 other countries, according to Corpus.

By focusing on agro-forestry, Corpus also hopes to solve the resurging insurgency problem by providing decent jobs and livelihood to impoverished upland communities. Speaking like a former NPA leader, he says: "Poverty permeates the uplands. And this is where the insurgents recruit most of their guerilla fighters."

"Trees are the source of life," he continues. "Without trees, rivers dry up. Dried rivers will mean dried water reservoirs and irrigation canals. No irrigation means poor agriculture. Poor agriculture means lack of food. Only by planting billions of trees in our bald mountains can we ensure food security for future generations of Filipinos."

Now that is one statement that few people can argue with, even if it comes from the perennially outspoken and inadvertently controversial Corpus. ◼

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Managing Editor	**Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz**
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THE Sunday INQUIRER MAGAZINE holds office at Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City, with telephone number 897-8808 locals 317 and 318. Mailing address: PO Box 2050, 1099 Manila, Philippines. E-mail: sim@inquirer.com.ph. For press releases, send e-mail to pr_sim@inquirer.com.ph.

STRAWBERRY FANTASY Holiday Inn Galleria Manila's featured dessert this month is Strawberry Mousse Fantasy with creamy pureed strawberries and gelatin, brushed with syrup layer after layer and fresh strawberries set atop whipped cream peaks. For orders, call 633-7111 local 7416. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

Yasuo

humbly dedicated to other Japanese Filipinos who have been abandoned or denied by their fathers

This is how my father has drawn
life for me: asphalt black
with his ghost always there
— the sheen at the end of each road,
elusive, ever distant.

There is no clear
cartography for this. Only the knowledge
that breath brings about further distances,
and all the cars and buses I've ridden
to come to this point, make me
no closer to hearing the sound of his shoes.
In a conspiracy of avenues and alleys
I thought I have seen in the corner
of my eye, the silver of his figure
walking by. There are moments,
when seated at the back of a vehicle,
I see him in the sidewalk, becoming
Like a silver thread, I was too late
to grasp, lost among many.

In a blur of bars, buildings, people,
landscapes, I strain against the masses
that swell beyond their frames of concrete
and iron. What names could surmount
moments, the city astounds itself with horns,
catcalls, jackhammers and other sonic
appurtenances? So I sit down in an island
somewhere, with no other thing to call.
Myself. Occasionally to hear my pulse,
I wait for the sound of fading motors
from passing cars. What stillness I have
for a body, I lose in the streets.
The fare has been dear.

But the cost has only deepened
my pockets. This world he heaved on me
when he packed his bags has taken
its inroads and started becoming veins,
beaten paths to the heart. Whenever
I see him at tangents: in a hotel
reading the Shimbun with his slippers
on, his feet up the table, or on the plane
above my head, drinking scotch, I know
the soul is just another we could not touch.

Thank you, Yasuo-san.
Haunting me
is as good a fatherhood as any.

Ken T. Ishikawa

AMERICA: *Yesterday, Today, Forever*

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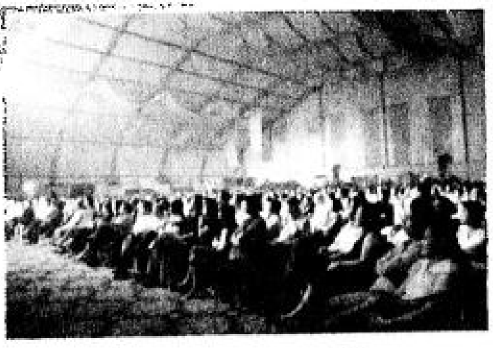
America's roots

Formed in 1967, America rose to fame about the same time as other all-American acts like Chicago, The Doobie Brothers, and The Eagles. Founding members Dewey Bunnell, Dan Peek, and Gerry Beckley released their first album in London in 1971. The following year, America even won the Grammy Award for Best New Artist. After Dan Peek left the group and over the course of the 70s and 80s, America continued to rock. Dewey and Gerry soon became famous for their trademark melodious rock/folk sound that could best be described as catchy cross-country driving music.

America rock the NBC Tent

With the NBC Tent packed to full capacity on all 3 nights, the fans were treated to almost two hours of good music. "The songs we're playing aren't oldies. It's called classic rock", joked Gerry after playing "Tin Man". And right he was. Gerry, Dewey and the rest of America then proceeded to rock the Tent with other classics like "Ventura Highway", "You Can Do Magic" and "I Need You". The crowd responded wildly. Much obliged, America even treated them to their own rendition of classic hits of other legendary bands of that era—The Beatles and The Mamas and the Papas.

RD-500 Roland



As the band casually thanked their cheering audience and left the stage, the lights went dim and it was obvious what encores the band had up their sleeve. Gerry re-emerged on stage to perform a solo number of their classic ballad "All My Life", much to the crowd's delight. He was then rejoined by the rest of America to perform their signature hit and last song for the evening—"A Horse With No Name". They almost brought the Tent down with this one and it was clear from the standing ovation they got that America can still rock on—and probably will for many years to come.

Simply the Gold Life

As always, SMART Gold subscribers received free tickets to what proved to be one of the most exciting rock music comebacks on our shores in recent history. With SMART Gold, you can always expect innovative products and services while enjoying unequalled network coverage across the country. Discover for yourself why more and more people are signing up for a SMART Gold plan today.

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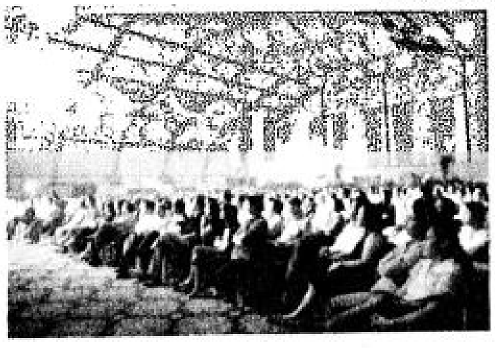

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Movers and Shakers

By Rodolfo A.G. Silvestre Jr.

The Fame of Fortune

Fortune Ledesma, Honorary Consul of Monaco to the Philippines, hobnobs with royalty and parties zealously. Her high profile evolved naturally, she says, and she's keeping it up—no matter what people sometimes say

ROGER MARGALLO

READ any society column, and you're most likely to come across the name or photograph of Fortune Ledesma. Or, to be more proper, Fortune Aleta Ledesma, Consul of Monaco to the Philippines.

Fortune is an honorary consul. She is also the first vice president of the Friends for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines and a former president of the Catholic Women's Club or CWC, whose exclusive roster of members through the years included Bea and earlier generations of Zobels.

It was from Bea that Fortune took over as the lone representative to our archipelago of the tiny but famous principality of Monaco. Fortune's is actually a house of two flags, she being the wife to the Honorary Consul of Bulgaria, Rene Ledesma. As a society chronicler would love to point out, theirs may be the only husband-and-wife honorary consul tandem in this part of the world.

Rene Ledesma, descended from the landed Ledesmas of Sugarlandia, is a successful real estate businessman. He drives his car or SUV, and brings the lady consul to her appointments when their joint presence as diplomats is not required. At home, son (and TV host) RJ proudly shows off his mom's awards, displayed in a corner of the large living-cum-dining room. Photographs of Prince Albert and Princess Caroline with the Ledesma family rest on the grand piano.

The master of the house is the current president of the San Antonio Parish Council, which covers the villages of Forbes Park, Dasmariñas and Urdaneta. As wife to the number one parishioner, Fortune claims to provide him moral support. "I am in the background but I help him if he needs it. I am there when it's Christmas, or All Souls' Day, I will be there this Holy Week. I am hands-on as a wife, mother, businesswoman, and civic worker. When my name is in the souvenir program as a member of a committee, you can be sure I did my part."

As for her high profile, it's not her fault that she is frequently photographed, Fortune says, "but I can assure you that I have nothing to do with its placement in the papers the next day or the next week."

The curtsy

It is this frequent appearance that has caused tongues to wag. If a columnist friend jokingly mentions that she curtsied before Princess Caroline, low and long enough for flashbulbs to pop again and again, those who read the story but were not there tend to believe what was written.

Fortune is undaunted and shrugs off such comments. "I take it all as a joke. The columnist is a friend and he could not have meant anything bad."

Fortune can afford to be gracious. The daughter of a Nueva Ecija governor, Fortune spent her early years in the province but eventually moved to Manila and enrolled at the Centro Escolar University, where she pursued a degree in optometry.

"Those were the years when parents dictated to their children," she recalls. "My father assigned one of us to be a physician, another to be a lawyer and so on. I was told to take up dentistry, but I refused and chose optometry instead." Aside from graduating cum laude, she topped the board exam. Years after, she would be chosen as an outstanding alumna for civic work.

At that time when beauty contests were more prestigious, Fortune was first runner up in the Mutya ng Pilipinas. The same year, she also emerged as first runner up in the Ms. International Pageant. Fortune recalls them as fun years, although she claims that "I was responsible enough."

She appeared in advertisements for various products, like Coca-Cola, Juicy Fruit and Opel. For three years, she was the Lifebuoy girl. Along the way, she also tucked in a few secretarial courses. It was while working in one of the offices of ABS-CBN that she met Rene, whom she eventually married. They have three children.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

With Prince Albert in Monaco during the principality's National Day

Although involved in such ventures as the Fortune boutique and the then famous Sonyx Video Shop, Fortune made sure she was around for her children. RJ, for Rene Junior, was a celebrity of sorts at a young age, as the boy in the Royal Tru-Orange commercials. He is now executive vice president of the Ledesma real estate company. Daughter Rina majored in English and is on the Assumption Convent faculty. As a teenager, Rina, like her mom, was proclaimed one of Manila's Five Loveliest. Another son, Rico, is in Boston for music studies at the Berklee College.

As Fortune sums it up, "No amount of success can compensate for your children's failure."

It is, of course, as honorary consul that Fortune is busiest. Recently, she chaired the annual consular ball, attended by honorary and career diplomatic corps and noted for its international list of invitees. Her recent feat as ball chairperson: logging in the largest attendance ever, and earning enough to share with other charitable organizations.

Last November 19, she was in Monaco to attend its National Day. "There was actually enough time to socialize with other Filipinos," she says. "Except for a few engaged in white collar jobs, most are employed in households of Monagasques, Italians and French who live in the principality. They are well loved there, because you know how diligent Filipinos are. They usually have professional degrees but they accept household work. So, they also turn out to be proficient in other skills like tutoring. Even Prince Albert and Princess Caroline have Filipinos on their staff."

Stringent qualifications

As honorary consul, Fortune is expected to take care of all things in the Philippines that have to do with Monaco. That's why when Princess Caroline recently came to lend her presence to the fund-raising dinner of the Virlanie foundation, Fortune welcomed her at the airport. The Princess naturally knew her from past palace receptions.

Wags never fail to point out that honorary consuls are now a dime a dozen, a far cry indeed from the time when honorary consuls were the likes of Stella Marquez Araneta and Armi Kuusela.

Times may have changed, but the qualifications are still stringent. For starters, one who aspires to the position has to be very well educated and must come from a good family. And, like it or not, one has to have the means, as one's presence is sought in every cocktail and dinner party that every other diplomat hosts.

And Fortune Ledesma is part of that scene, not just because she is a Ledesma and hails from Dasmariñas Village. She, like other honorary consuls, does not get paid for her work. In fact, she has to spend her own resources if she is to represent Monaco well. If gowns be required for the occasion, she used to go to Joe Salazar, but now frequents the shop of Rajo Laurel. In the office, though, and in other club meetings, she goes about in jeans or pants suits, bought mostly off-the-rack.

Her days are always full. Even if she does not cook, she still prepares the menu especially when guests are expected. Most of the time, she and husband Rene eat in the office. "That's why when people ask me if I have time for my husband, the answer is yes. We share the same office and we earn from the same business. He is my boss in the real estate company."

She gets to their office by 10:30 in the morning and stays there until 5:30 in the afternoon. It could be earlier when she has to attend a cocktail reception, and because Rene is also an honorary consul they most likely do the rounds together. "Actually, it's not that difficult because they're most likely to be a few minutes' drive from one another, whether in the villages or in the hotels nearby," says Fortune. She doesn't seem to run out of energy, considering that she sometimes has to bring would-be buyers to their Tagaytay development project.

Fortune reveals that she does not like being exposed to the sun, and does not mind being teased for opening her umbrella all the time when she is under the sun. She uses moisturizers and sunblock generously.

And if people ask the source of Fortune's equanimity despite the stress and tension that come with selling tickets to charity events and fulfilling diplomatic duties, her answer is simple: "Time management. I decide on what is best to do at this hour or on this day, and I focus when each activity or task comes along. I put my heart and soul in what I am doing."

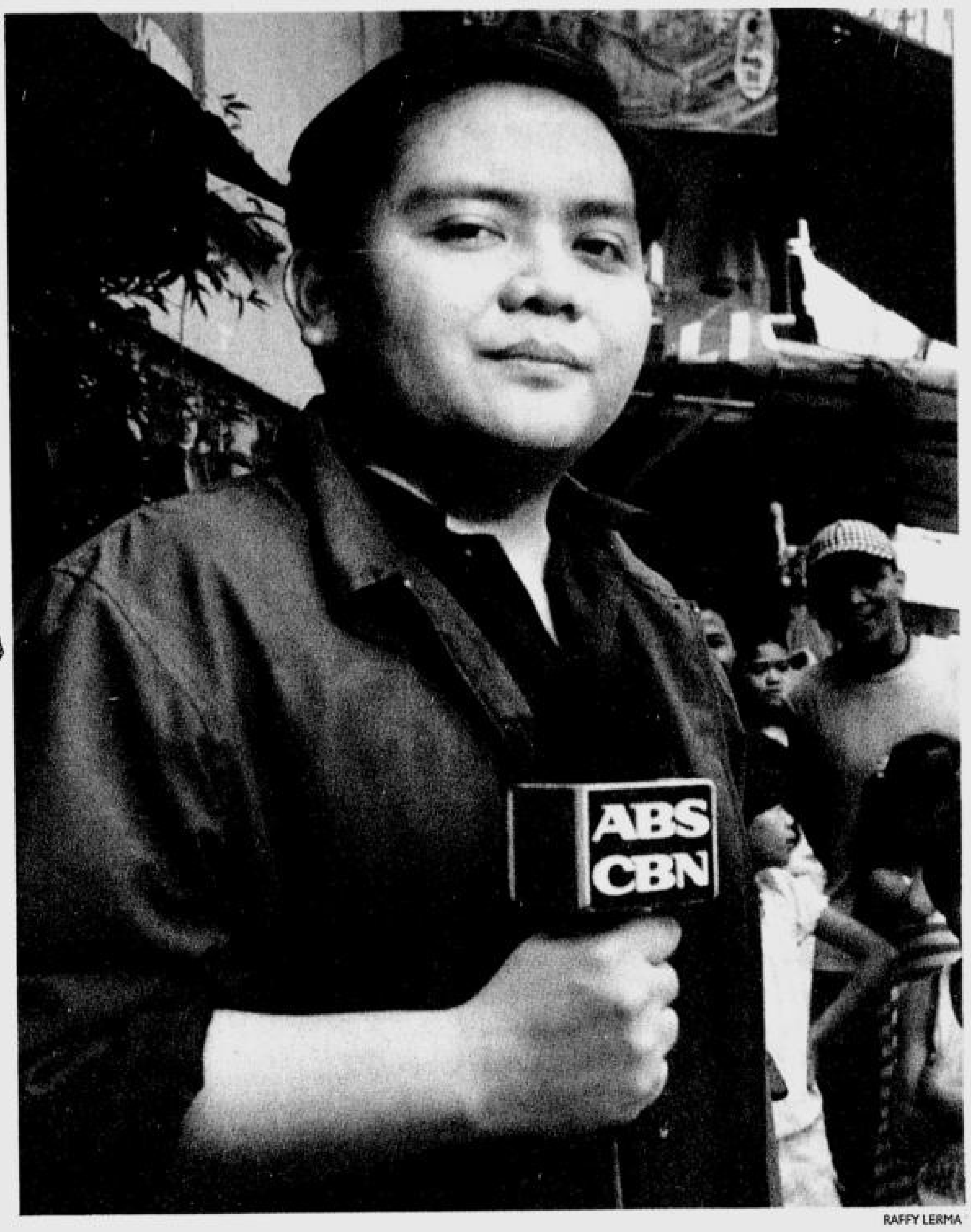
As for being that perennial fixture in Manila high society, she says, "I am part of all this because it just happened. They invite me, I go. They ask if I could do this, I say yes, and I do it. Then, they see that I can do a lot more. So, they ask me again.

"I do not have to curtsy to anyone to make it to the front pages. But if I curtsy to Princess Caroline, so what? She is a princess of Monaco, and I am Monaco's honorary consul to the Philippines. Is anything wrong with that?" Q

Seen on TV

By Cora Llamas

The Reporter Who Became the News



RAFFY LERMA

"STAY out of trouble now, hear?" his fellow crew members would always admonish ABS-CBN TV journalist Doland Castro. "Don't stay too close to him," the mother of a colleague half-jokingly warned her son. Back at the studio, senior editors would ask Castro, with a nudge and wink, if he'd like to test his mettle in the battlefields of Mindanao.

There is good reason for this show of concern, no matter if they are delivered half in jest. In the past four months, Castro has narrowly escaped death from a grenade explosion, has gotten gravely ill and lost amidst the devastation of the landslide in Quezon, and just barely avoided being clamped in jail by a slew of raging cops.

"I'm supposed to deliver the news, but now I've become THE news," says the "TV Patrol" reporter wryly. Aware that his penchant for being in the wrong place at the wrong time could get him in serious trouble, Castro has taken to carrying a picture of the Black Nazarene in his cellphone. Deemed to be miraculous and passed from one house to another in a community of prayer, the icon always happens to be stationed at his home every time "something monumental happens," he says, mentioning three events presaged by the image: the first time he became a reporter, when he got his job at ABS-CBN, and the near accident in Quezon.

But Castro traces his desire to be a journalist from a less celestial source. As a boy, he saw his lawyer father being mulcted by a policemen on the take, and decided he would like a job reporting and correcting wrongdoings. This was cemented by his two-year stint as a broadcast reporter at 10 in the defunct "TV Junior Patrol (TJP)."

Among his mentors then were Vice President and then "TJP" executive producer Noli de Castro and Arlene de Castro, TJP supervising producer, now ABS-CBN Vice President for News and Current Affairs. Castro was one of 10 lucky kids picked from 4,000 applicants. After a month of training, the pre-teen broadcasters were given socially relevant but kiddie-friendly assignments like reporting on uncollected garbage in the neighborhood.

Close to his heart

"TJP" lasted two years, and then it was back to school for Castro who finished his Journalism degree at the University of Sto. Tomas. His first job at ABS-CBN was as researcher-writer for the information-driven "Knowledge Power." This was followed by "Mission X," where he cut his teeth on investigative reporting and where he finally did stories close to his heart, like covering corrupt law enforcers.

He recounts how all the stories on *kotong* cops landed on his desk. "Whereas before I saw myself undergoing the same problems and complaining about them, now I'm reporting them. *Nakakagaan ng puso kung nakakatulong ka* (It gladdens the heart, knowing you've been of help)."

It was also on "Mission X" where he got his baptism of fire. Literally. "We'd go with the police during an entrapment operation," he recalls. "Once they make the bust, we'd be right alongside them. Should there be a shootout, we're not that far behind."

Despite his crusading zeal against corrupt law officers, Castro managed to develop strong sources among honest policemen. His strategy, he says, is simple: retain your credibility. "I don't drink with cops, honest or not, after work. I push away the envelopes that some try to force on me and my crew."

> *He was supposed to cover events, not figure in them. But ABS-CBN reporter Doland Castro seems to have a knack for being in the wrong place at the wrong time*

There was a time when he almost landed in jail himself. Last November, a colleague, a camera operator arrested for drunk driving, called the desk for assistance. Arriving at the scene, Castro noticed that the man was indeed drunk but that he also had a bruise on his head although his medical certificate stated that the suspect sustained no injury. When his request for another medical exam was refused, Castro asked his own cameraman to take shots of their colleague inside the jail cell. What followed was pandemonium.

"The cops tried to grab the camera," Castro narrates. "One cop drew a gun, and we were almost jailed. Fortunately, our media friends from other stations came in. Then the duty officer came and pacified the policemen. I have since then filed a harassment case against the Central Police District." The case is ongoing.

Potential jail time, though, was a walk in the park compared to the grenade explosion that Castro barely survived. Stationing himself on the stairs of a house being raided by police, he didn't notice that a suspect had lobbed the deadly device under the structure. Without warning, he heard a loud bang and felt his legs go numb. "It felt like icepick piercing your insides. It was like your blood just started freezing."

Lucky belt

Six people died in the blast, and a few were wounded. Castro himself suffered shrapnel injuries on his back, his stomach, and both feet. It also tore

To page 7

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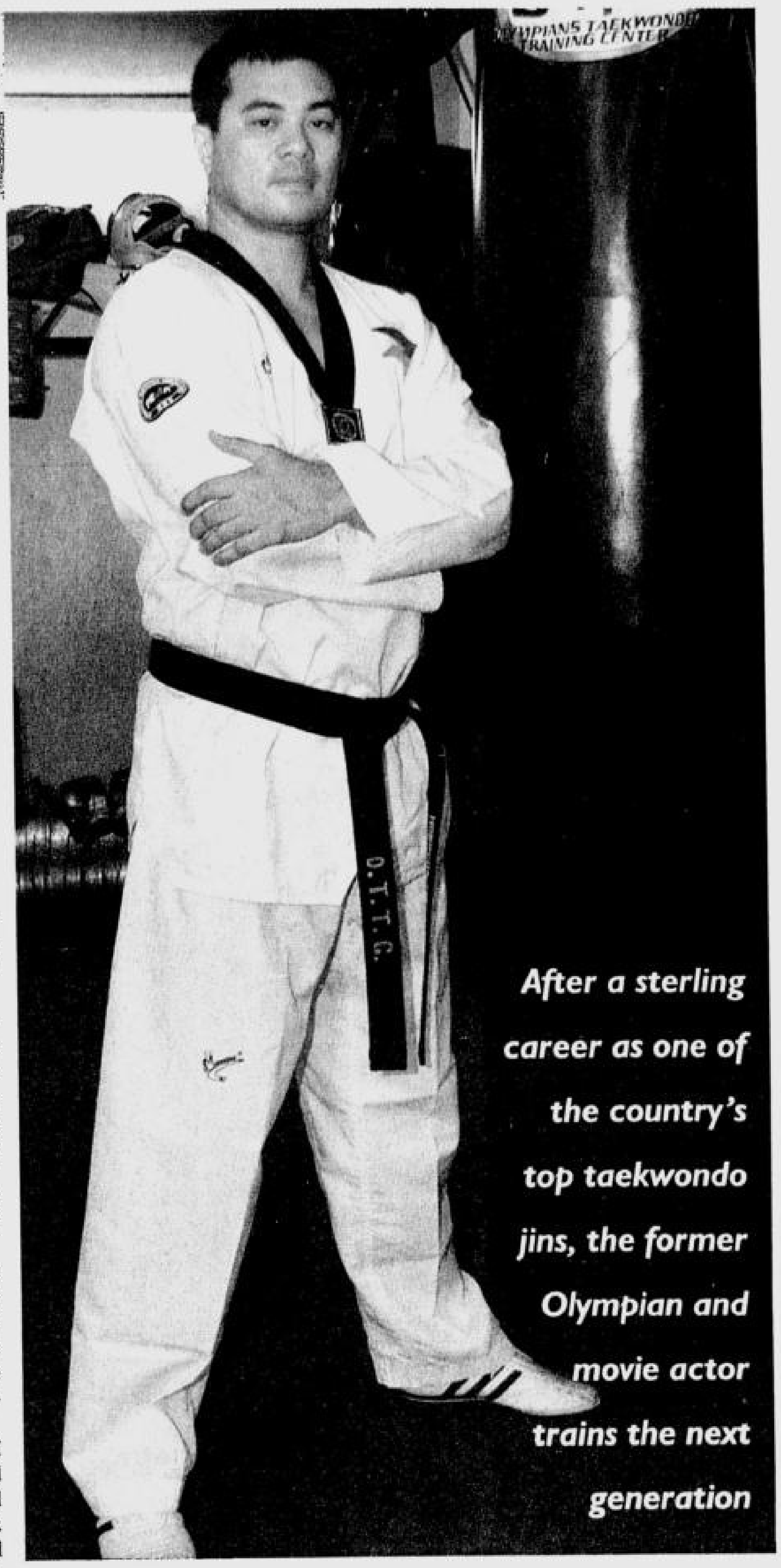
All in the Game

By Tinna S. Bonifacio
Photographs by Ryan Lim

The Mentor in Monsour



After a sterling career as one of the country's top taekwondo jins, the former Olympian and movie actor trains the next generation

IN 1981, Monsour del Rosario made a bargain with God. Looking up at the ceiling, he whispered: "God, if you're really up there, and if you think I have a future in this sport, please make me win today. If I win, I promise, I'll stop all the crazy things I've been doing."

The occasion was the 3rd National Taekwondo Championship, where Monsour was entered in his first official tournament. This was his fourth bout of the day. He'd won his other three matches handily, but one look at his next opponent—a Malaysian student from the International School Manila—and Monsour realized that this fight was not going to be easy. The two fighters were equally matched in speed and endurance. The Malaysian boy was strong, and had the same build and height as Monsour. It could go either way.

But Monsour had a special reason for wanting to win. Until that day, he hadn't yet made up his mind whether he wanted to devote his whole life to taekwondo. He was only 17 and loved the carefree life of a teenage boy too much to give it up for the rigid discipline that the sport required. He had one foot in the door, but the other needed a really good reason to follow. "I was still smoking, drinking and staying up late. That's why I told God that day that if I won, I would take it as a sign to stop all the crazy things I was doing and get serious," says Monsour.

Pushing hard

The fight was close, and when Monsour's hand was raised at the end of the match, the Malaysian boy couldn't believe it. He blurted out, "Man, how did that happen?" Monsour wasn't sure either, but he knew that he had to make good on his promise. So when he got home, he threw out all his cigarettes and alcohol and radically changed his lifestyle. Instead of staying up late to meet girls and party with his friends, he started going to bed early and woke up at 6 a.m. every day to begin another round of punishing physical training. "I'd be leaving for my daily run just as my friends were coming home from parties," recalls Monsour with a laugh.

He pushed himself hard because of that promise he'd made to God, and also because he was focused on his ultimate goal, which was to represent the country in the 1988 Seoul Olympics, the first year that taekwondo would become a medal sport. But first he had to win a series of qualifying matches that would rank him among the top 16 fighters in the region. These included the World Championships, the Southeast Asian Games, and the Asian Games.

There was a lot at stake: Filipinos had won medals for boxing and track and field, but never for taekwondo. No Filipinos had even qualified to compete at the Olympics in taekwondo. If he managed to pull it off, Monsour would be the first, and if he won a medal, would go down in history as the first Filipino to bring one home. But Monsour didn't want just another medal: He wanted the gold.

Monsour trained under Sun Chon Hong, the acknowledged grand master and father of taekwondo in the Philippines. After just a year—in 1982—Monsour made the national team. His rise in the sport was swift. In 1985, he earned a bronze medal at the World Taekwondo Championships and was named to the Taekwondo Hall of Fame, an honor he held for two years. That was followed by a silver at the 1986 Asian Games, and a gold medal at the 1987 Southeast Asian Games.

Then came the Olympics. It was the moment Monsour had spent seven years preparing and training for. He made it to the quarterfinals, where he lost to a Korean fighter (who was the reigning world champion) and never made it to the medal round. He was shattered. "I cried," he admits. "I was devastated because that was my dream, to win the gold for the country."

Unknown to Monsour, life was about to deal him an even bigger blow. When he told Master Hong that he intended to return home and begin training immediately for the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, the man he thought would be the first to support his dreams told him, "No."

Monsour couldn't understand it. "I wanted another shot. I knew I could still fight, and I still wanted to win a gold medal for the country," he says. But Mr. Hong had other plans for him. He wanted Monsour to join the movies. His explanation for it was simple: "If you become famous, taekwondo becomes famous. And whatever happens, you'll always be my first (student to qualify for the Olympics)."

But Mr. Hong's words offered little consolation. "I wanted to die. I was feeling so bad that I refused to wear my uniform for two years. There was just no fire left in me," says Monsour.

Perfect sense

Yet there was a part of him that had to admit that Mr. Hong made perfect sense. For one thing, Monsour had just graduated from college and needed to start earning his keep. It was impossible to do this in taekwondo, since the sport was practically unknown in the country at the time. Monsour's joining the movies would help raise public awareness of the sport, which, according to Mr. Hong, was just what the doctor ordered.

So in 1988, Monsour appeared in his first movie, "Enteng the Dragon" for RVQ Productions. To date, he has made close to 40 films, including "Eagle Squad," "Joe Pring 2: *Kidlat ng* Maynila," "Contreras Gang," *"Magkasangga sa Batas," "Kakambal Ko sa Tapang," "Anak ng Tondo* 2" and "Operation *Balikatan*." He's been nominated Best Actor five times, and Best Supporting Actor once, for "Contreras Gang." And just as Mr. Hong predicted, the exposure Monsour gained from showbiz has helped the sport immensely. Now, there are many retired fighters who are making a living by coaching and training other up-and-coming fighters.

But all of them owe this to Monsour, who had to sacrifice his dream of competing in the Olympics to become an actor and thereby give the sport of taekwondo a boost.

Perhaps the best proof of his success is the large number of students who enroll at Olympians Taekwondo Training Center (OTTC), the gym put up by Monsour and former teammate Stephen Fernandez five years ago. Located at the lower ground floor of the Karrivin Plaza along Pasong Tamo Extension in Makati, they offer taekwondo classes to both dabblers and serious practitioners of the sport. During school months, they offer after-school classes; during summer, they have classes the whole day long.

Putting up the OTTC was another thing that met with Mr. Hong's approval. "When he gave me the go-signal, I got Stephen to go into a joint venture with me," says Monsour, who's still in great physical shape despite having retired from active competition. Stephen and Monsour were the first two Filipinos to qualify for the taekwondo competitions in the Olympics. Monsour represented the Philippines at the 1988 Seoul Olympics; Stephen went twice, once with Monsour in 1988, and once without him, to the 1992 Barcelona Olympics where he won a bronze medal in the bantamweight class.

New challenge

Aside from the OTTC, Monsour is also busy with the Monsour Boracay Taekwondo Challenge, now on its second year and sponsored by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. As you read this, he should be in Boracay, watching some 60 fighters from the grade school, high school and college levels compete for the honor of being declared national champion. "This is my way of spotting and recruiting fighters for future international competitions," says Monsour, who is currently an advisor to the training and coaching staff of the Philippine National Taekwondo team.

So for Monsour del Rosario, the dream of bagging a gold medal still lives—but this time, through the fighters he is helping to develop and train. Does he still believe the Philippines can do it? "Yes," he says. "Ever since taekwondo became a medal sport in the Olympics in 1988, the Philippines has always sent fighters to compete—and you don't get sent there unless you are ranked among the top 16 fighters in the world in your weight class, which means that Filipinos are among the best in the world. So yes, I believe we can still win that gold medal. Maybe I didn't get to do it, but someone will."

Now married and about to become a father (his wife, the former Joy Zapanta, is expecting their first child), Monsour says that the only obstacle to winning that elusive Olympic gold is not the talent. "It's a lot of things, like budget and politics. You have to know how to play the game in more ways than one."

To those aspiring to take his place among the taekwondo greats of the country one day, Monsour has this to say: "I always tell them, turn your fear into fire. It's a different feeling when you're out there representing your country. Represent it with pride. Do your best, because even if you fail, there's a certain sense of satisfaction in knowing that you did the best you possibly could." Q

The Reporter

...from page 4

his belt, the one thing that saved his life. Without it, the pieces of metal would have cut directly through his gut. Castro spent a couple of weeks in hospital and another two recovering at home. Waking up a few days after being brought in for medical care, he saw his mother weeping. "I knew what I was getting into," he says. "But the incident also gave me a fresh perspective on how dangerous our job is. You're always just a few feet away from the grave."

No going back

Nowhere was this truer than during his muddy trek through Quezon days after the December landslides that had tons of logs sweeping entire villages and thousands to their death in the aftermath of a typhoon. Sent to the scene straight from the studio, Castro and his crew only had the clothes on their back since there was no time to pack or prepare for the coverage. After hours of travel, the crew found their vehicle blocked by tons of logs and soil that had converted main highways into forests. Sources had reported 20 landslides that had ripped Quezon apart; in retrospect, Castro said he had counted 40. On the way to the most damaged areas, they would encounter naked survivors who had shorn off their mud-soaked clothes because the weight was dragging them down. *"Bumalik na kayo,"* they were told. *"Wala na kayong maaabutan* (Go back.There's nothing for you here)."

But his reporter's instinct prodded him to go on. On their second day in Quezon and without any transport, Castro and his crew waded through the swirling mix of soil, water, tree branches and rocks. By that time, he had long discarded his shoes which got stuck to the mushy ground on first step. He had to walk barefoot, unmindful of the sharp pebbles and stones that cut through his flesh.

"I was a few feet away from the edge of the cliff," he recalls. "The soil was chipping and dropping off from the mountain, making people panic. The soles of my feet were wounded. I couldn't walk. It was still raining and I was just praying. I wanted to just give up. It came to a point that my life flashed before my eyes and I was thinking of my loved ones."

A boulder rolled down and almost dropped on him, were it not for some alert survivors who pushed him away. Along with them, Castro and his crew spent their nights in a barangay official's crammed two-story nipa hut. Amidst the darkness, with a heavy wind threatening to rip the door away, the lonely group shared a *kamote* (yams) dinner in fragile peace.

The next day would prove as scary. As Castro and other reporters trekked further, they found that the rains had become their main enemy. Gathering storm clouds meant more rains that could precipitate another avalanche of logs and mud that could bury this motley band of travelers. As Castro prayed "Heart of Jesus," a fellow reporter started singing the Gospel song, "Lead Me, Lord." Everyone soon joined in, each note fighting to stem the panic within. As the song ended, the sun broke through, bringing light and hope.

"If you did all that singing here in Manila, it would look corny," says Castro. "People would say you're *baduy* (parochial). But at that point in Quezon, you really felt that you needed God," he says of his umpteenth brush with mortality.

Rewarding stories

Rubbing shoulders with the Quezon survivors who had lost their families, homes, and livelihood reminded him again of his responsibility as a journalist. "You'd really feel that you want to help. When I was interviewed on ANC about my experiences in Quezon, I kept saying that the survivors needed our presence and our support."

Not that all his stories are as dramatic. But most are as rewarding, making him feel that they have made a difference. Take his reportage on a six-month-old boy left by his father near a creek under Quezon Avenue. Wrapped in garbage, the emaciated child was taken to the Social Welfare department. When Castro's story aired, the mother—who was until then clueless about her husband's actions—asked to take the boy back.

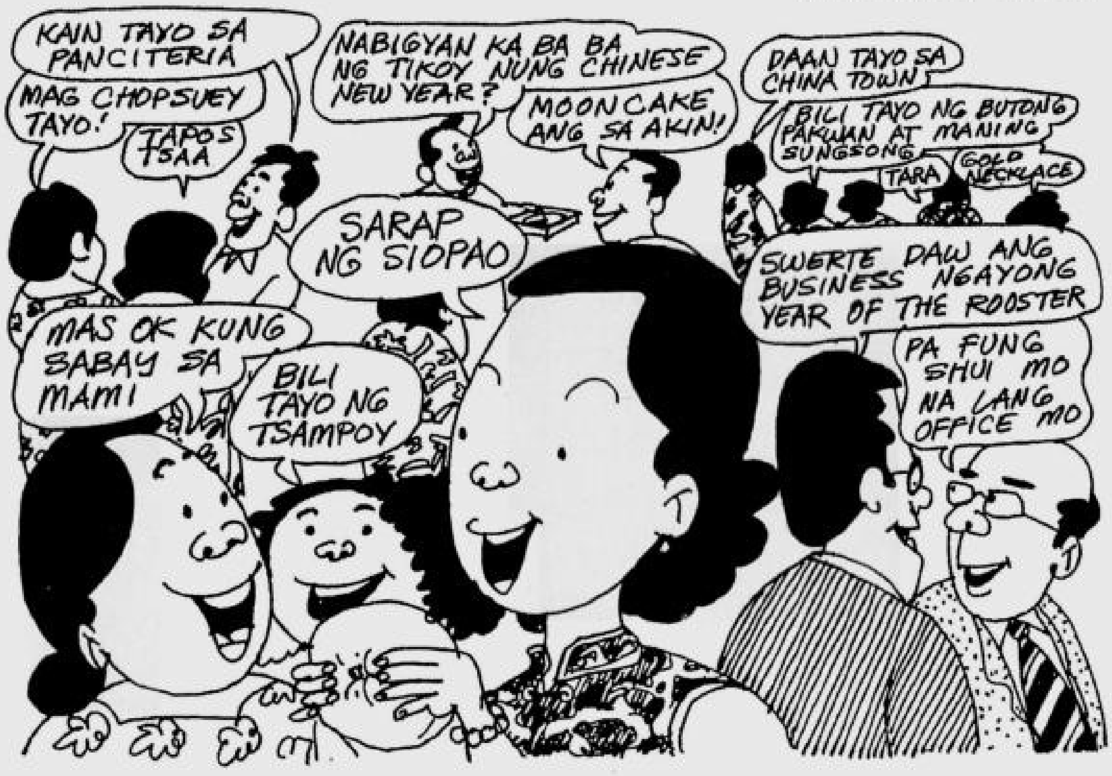
"Iyon ang mga istoryang nakakataba ng puso (These are the stories that hearten me)," Castro says of this happy reunion. He'd like to do more stories that focus on public service, he adds.

But it is the dangerous stories that he can't seem to get away from, it seems. Back on his usual late night beat after his hospital stay, Castro and his crew encountered several drunken men hitting each other with their helmets in a brawl. His cameramen took a deep breath and cautioned Castro. "Sir, *ingat. Heto na naman tayo* (Careful now, sir. Here we go again)." ◘

Pinoy Nga!

By Jess Abrera

Kulturang Tsinoy


KAIN TAYO SA PANCITERIA
MAG CHOPSUEY TAYO!
TAPOS TSAA
NABIGYAN KA BA BA NG TIKOY NUNG CHINESE NEW YEAR?
MOONCAKE ANG SA AKIN!
DAAN TAYO SA CHINA TOWN
BILI TAYO NG BUTONG PAKWAN AT MANING SUNGSONG
TARA
GOLD NECKLACE
SARAP NG SIOPAO
SWERTE DAW ANG BUSINESS NGAYONG YEAR OF THE ROOSTER
MAS OK KUNG SABAY SA MAMI
BILI TAYO NG TSAMPOY
PA FUNG SHUI MO NA LANG OFFICE MO

This Week

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

Art

Electronic Devices in Black Boxes Would Not Need Food, an exhibit of images in acrylic on canvas by Louie Cordero at Finale Art Gallery, SM Megamall until Feb. 22.

Music

A series of free concerts will mark the launching of **The Easter Journey**, the new album of Hangad, a musical group of students and young professionals under the Jesuit Music Ministry. The first concert will be held on Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. in the Church of the Gesu at the Ateneo de Manila University campus in Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Other concerts will be held at St. Cecilia's Hall in St. Scholastica's College, Manila, at 7 p.m. on March 4, and at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Church in Rio Vista Subdivision, Sabang, Baliuag, Bulacan, at 3 p.m. on March 20.

Cinema

The **Japanese Film Festival Eiga Sai** will feature the films of renowned Japanese film director and screenwriter Akira Kurosawa. Preview screenings will be held at the UP Film Institute from Feb. 23-26 and 28. Regular screenings will follow at the CCP Dream Theater from March 2-6. The final run will be at the Equitable PCI Bank Tower II-Antonio Molina Hall from March 7-11. Movies to be screened are "Rashomon," "Seven Samurai," "Not Yet!," "Doomed," "Judo Saga," "High and Low," "Stray Dog" and "The Bad Sleep Well." For inquiries, call 811-6155 to 58.

Onstage

The Embassy of Japan and the Japan Foundation, Manila will present a unique traditional Japanese performance art called **Rakugo** on Feb. 21 and 22, 7:30 p.m. at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium of the RCBC Plaza, Makati City. Rakugo is a comic monologue in which a storyteller creates an imaginary drama through episodic narration. Performing in Manila this year is Kaishi Katsura, one of the major English Rakugo performers in Japan. For details, call 551-7814.

Jewels Productions presents ***Sa Puso Ko***, a pro-youth, family-oriented and anti-drug abuse advocacy play at the cinema theater of Lores Country Plaza, M.I. Quezon Ext., Antipolo City on Feb. 26 with performances at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. Tickets available at the gates.

Atbp

Walk in the City schedule: Explore the streets of Binondo and check out the district's period architecture on Feb. 20, 2:30 p.m. Meeting place at the courtyard of Binondo Church. Visit the flamboyant tombs of the Manila Chinese Cemetery through A Chinese Cemetery Walk on Feb. 27, 9 a.m. Meet at the Bahay Tsinoy Museum. Text 0917-3291622 or email oldmanilawalks@gmail.com or check out www.oldmanilawalks.blogspot.com for rates and details.

Storytelling Session. Powerbooks together with Cambridge Child Development Centre invites younger readers to have a grand afternoon as storytellers from Cambridge tell stories and teach arts and crafts on Feb. 26, 3 to 4 p.m. at Powerbooks Alabang. On Feb. 24, Business One holds a seminar on How to Explore and Expand Creative Capabilities from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Powerbooks Greenbelt.

The Word

By Fr. Ruben J. Villote

At Home With the Helpless

How can we best help the helpless? How can we face someone we care about who is suffering and whose suffering we feel helpless about?

WHAT do you do when you come face to face with someone who is suffering and whose suffering you feel you can do nothing about?

What can you do, for example, about the Aetas in Zambales and the thousands who are suffering from the tantrums of Mt. Pinatubo?

What can you do about a young girl hanging on to life in a hospital ICU, a defenseless victim of a demented killer?

What can you do about the wrenching pain in the hearts of parents helplessly viewing the remains of their children who were mangled by their fraternity brothers or military captors?

What can you do about a terminal patient lying limp and helpless, with pain and fear etched all over his face as night approaches?

What can you do about someone who reveals to you a hidden wound, an ugly secret about himself which has been hurting from childhood, and which you can do nothing about?

We who are in the so-called "helping profession" are often tempted to immediately "do something" and "do everything" for the suffering persons by overwhelming them with our "help." We are tempted to give endless advice, opinions and sermons and even make decisions for them, bombarding them with our "wisdom," "power" and "aid." We give them no chance to deal with their pain because we have allowed them to depend on us even in areas where we ourselves are helpless. And when finally we realize our helplessness, we find it difficult to deal with our own handicap, and we are tempted to withdraw gradually and do nothing further or "just wait it out," and we call this helpless retreat a case of "benevolence fatigue"!

How can we best help the helpless? How can we face someone we care about who is suffering and whose suffering we feel helpless about?

1. Respect the pain of the suffering person. When someone hurts, and he wants to cry and shout out his pain, anger and frustration, let him. Allow him to raise his voice and his fist to express his anger, even with God. Allow him to ask furious questions about the mercy of God, about the value of suffering, about his own capacity to suffer, about the meaning of life and death. And please don't attempt to answer his questions. Do not attempt to argue with a suffering person. Control your urge to preach to him about the "will of God," the "plan of God," the "goodness of God" or the "wrath of God" at this moment. Do not make the mistake of telling him "I understand what you feel," "I know all about suffering; I have gone through more difficult times." Such well-intentioned placebos can sound phony to the suffering person because he believes that his suffering, here and now, is unique and peculiar to him alone.

2. Just be present, and listen without interrupting, without probing, without judging and without giving advice. As the suffering person goes through the stages of denial, anger, bargaining and depression, just be there with him and do not rush the process. Allow him to stay at any one stage and wait for the Lord to touch him where it hurts most. Lead him gently to prayer, giving to Jesus the most intense pain, and receiving him in suffering. If he cannot pray, and you feel helpless praying with him, then you can tell Jesus about your own pain of not being able to help him. As you struggle through your powerlessness, you will find inner power and healing in your own heart. Perhaps it is you who needs to be healed first.

3. Acceptance is the last stage of inner healing and forgiveness. Both the suffering person and you are painfully led to an act of acceptance—acceptance of your mutual brokenness and emptiness before God, and acceptance of His wholeness and fullness which Jesus already claimed for you in John 10:10. Claim that promise right away even as you forgive yourself for not responding at once to the many ways Jesus has been inviting you to fuller humanity through suffering and pain. And even as you and the suffering person you love are in the process of accepting and forgiving your common human woundedness, faith, peace and hope are being restored to you, and inner healing, perhaps even physical healing, has already begun!

4. Do not isolate the suffering person. Without having to resort to media blitzes and theatrics (and politics), invite other caring persons and support groups, even professionals who are trained in pastoral counseling and health care, to accompany you in your journey through suffering and pain. Link up with the Wounded Healer Health Care Ministry, National Kidney Transplant Institute, East Avenue, Quezon City; or with the Clinical Pastoral Care, Makati Medical Center in Makati.

5. Take care of yourself. When you are caring for someone who is suffering, know you limitations. Although you are being challenged to empty yourself for the suffering poor, be aware of what you can and cannot offer. You cannot give what you don't have. Do not feel guilty about taking a day or week off, and then return renewed to continue your work of mercy. Love your neighbor, yes, but love yourself first so you can give your best to your neighbor—and to God (Mt 22:39).

In my work of ministering to the migrant and street youth who have been displaced and rejected in the city, I have seen pain and suffering close-up in the faces of these broken young people. As they cried out to me their anger, bitterness and fear, I always felt helpless and vulnerable before them. I felt empty and powerless giving a name to my emotions as I faced their hurts which they expressed through obnoxious behavior (distrust, lying, gossiping, stealing, etc.). I found it difficult to forgive and accept these unloving and unlovable people who, from childhood, never learned to give and receive love.

As we came face to face each day, I realized that they (who were supposed to be helped) and I (who was supposed to help them) were both broken, handicapped and in pain. It was only at that moment that I became certain that I, the wounded, could begin to heal them and be healed by them in the process.

Being At Home with the Aging and the Helpless (Feb. 6 and 20) can serve as ways of loving others even if it is not Valentine's Day or Holy Week. ◘

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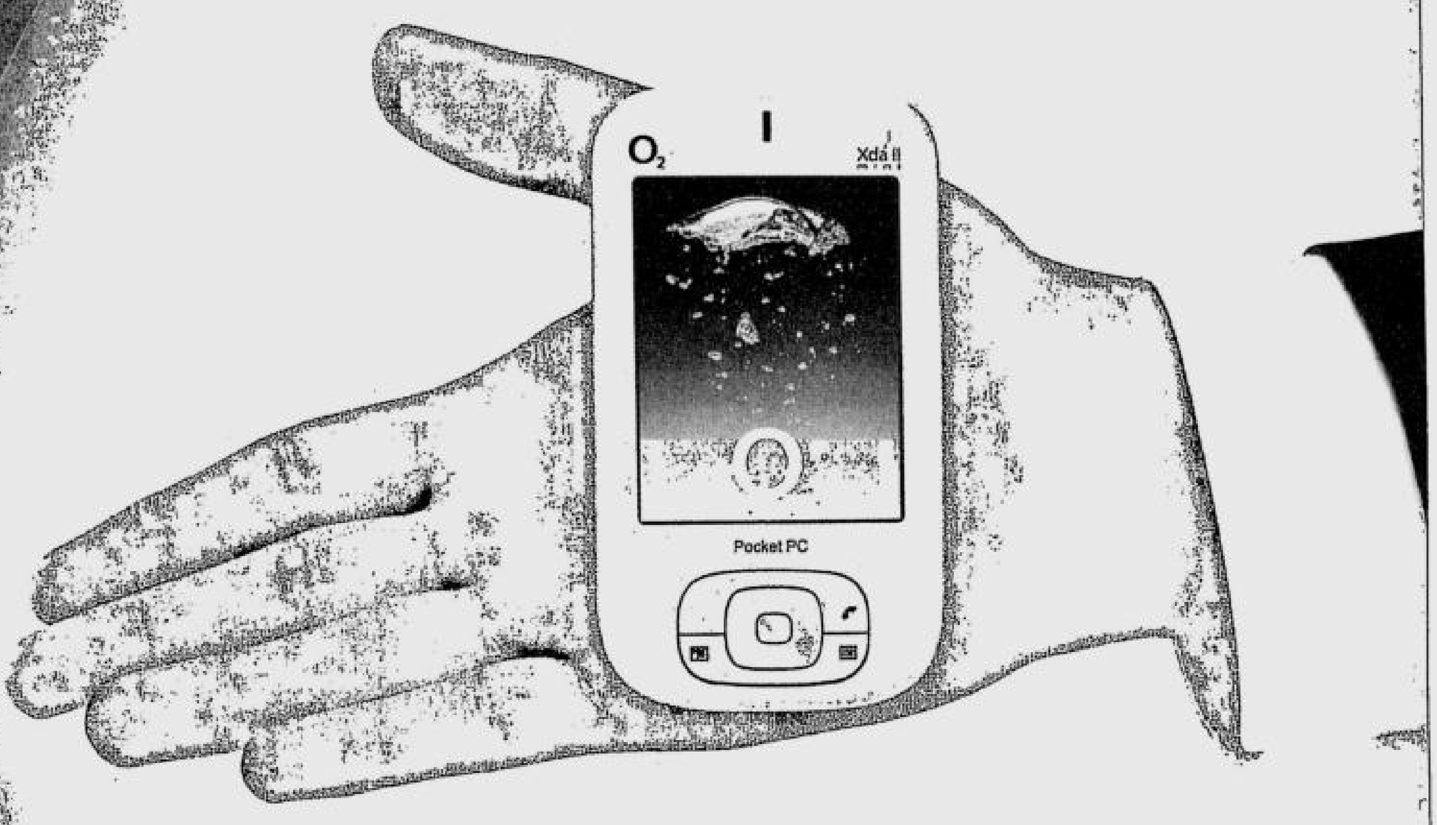

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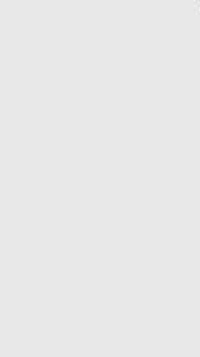
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